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NEWS RELEASE

RE: Cause No.:09-CR-00002536
State of Texas v. Raul Coronado Jr. - D.O.B. 05/01/1970

Court of Appeals affirms Coronado's Seven Life Terms

Brownsville, Texas – November 4, 2011 – Armando R. Villalobos, County and District Attorney for Cameron County, announces that the Thirteenth Court of Appeals issued an opinion affirming the conviction and seven life term sentences of 41-year-old Raul Coronado Jr. of Harlingen, Texas.

“We are very satisfied with the Court of Appeals decision on affirming the defendant Coronado’s conviction and sentence,” County and District Attorney Armando R. Villalobos said. “Our office will continue, to the best of our efforts, to prosecute child molesters in our community.”

“I thank the jury who handed down the conviction and strong sentence against Coronado because it shows that our community will not tolerate this behavior, especially against children,” Villalobos said.

Coronado presented two issues on appeal, arguing that the trial court erred in denying his motion to suppress and his motion for a DNA expert. The Cameron County and District Attorney’s Office responded to, and opposed, each of Coronado’s issues on appeal. Assistant District Attorney Michael Bloch argued this case for the State of Texas in the Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals issued an opinion holding that Coronado failed to demonstrate that he was entitled to have the evidence in question suppressed, and further he failed to demonstrate that he was entitled to the assistance of a DNA expert, under the law.

Coronado was charged in a seven count indictment with one count of continuous sexual abuse of a child or children, three counts of indecency with a child, and three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

An enhancement count was also listed in the indictment for a prior conviction that Coronado received for delivery of controlled substance in 1994. He was found guilty in September 2010 on all seven counts and the jury assessed a life term on each count.

Assistant District Attorneys Brandy Bailey and Stephanie Rollins presented the case to the jury during a four-day jury trial.

According to the Harlingen Police Department, Coronado sexually assaulted a 12-year-old victim at his residence throughout the year in 2007. According to court records, the child abuse occurred over a period of five years.

For more information, contact the Cameron County and District Attorney's Office at (956) 544-0849.

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