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Dallas County District Attorney's Office Reaffirms Guilt of Convicted Child Sex Offender Culberson Henry through Post-Conviction DNA Testing

(DALLAS – June 12, 2007) – Today the Dallas County District Attorney's Office announced that the post-conviction DNA test results in the 1993 case of the *State vs. Culberson Henry*, reaffirms his guilt of aggravated sexual assault on a child under the age of 14. Henry, who was convicted of the felony offense in 1994 and sentenced to 40 years in prison, filed a motion for DNA testing in 2002 in accordance with a state law passed in 2001 allowing convicted people to apply for DNA testing.

The trial court originally granted DNA testing on the evidence in 2003 and the test results were inconclusive. In June of 2006, the Actual Innocence Clinic at the University of Texas' School of Law approached the District Attorney's Office requesting retesting of the DNA evidence using the more sophisticated Y-STR testing method. The trial court granted DNA testing again in September of 2006 and results confirmed Henry's guilt.

"The recent DNA results in the Henry case further emphasize that post-conviction DNA testing not only frees the wrongfully convicted periodically, but equally important, it reaffirms guilt of violent crimes in many cases," said Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins. "This is a shining example of how the criminal justice system is working to ensure the safety of the citizens of Dallas County by making sure we have the right person locked up for the crime in question."

In 1993, Henry was accused, tried and convicted of raping a 12-year-old girl as she walked to church. Henry is incarcerated in the Texas Department of Corrections' facility in Tennessee Colony, Texas.

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