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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Roberto Avila Pleas to First Degree Murder, Sentenced to Life for Fatal
Beating of his 19-Month-Old Nephew**

WHAT: In the case of the *State vs. Roberto Avila*, Criminal District Court 7, the Honorable Judge Michael Snipes presiding, the defendant Roberto Avila was charged with Capital Murder. In exchange for his plea of guilty to a reduced charge of First Degree Murder, Mr. Avila agreed to a sentence of life imprisonment in the Texas Department of Corrections. The prosecutor on the case from the Dallas County District Attorney's Office Child Abuse Division was Reynie Tinajero.

WHEN: The plea agreement was finalized on March 27, 2008.

WHERE: Frank Crowley Courts Building
133 N. Industrial Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75207

BACKGROUND: The parents of the victim, a 19-month-old boy who was the nephew of defendant Roberto Avila, had left the child in Mr. Avila's care while they traveled to Laredo, Texas, in search of employment. While in Mr. Avila's care on February 18, 2006, his wife and children watched him severely beat and shake the baby boy. The child was declared brain dead on February 23, 2006. When Mr. Avila was arrested, he confessed to beating the child because he thought the baby's father was somehow involved in the killing of the defendant's brother.

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