

CLEVELAND COUNTY
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**Justice Found in Child Sexual Abuse Case.
Jury Sentenced Abuser to 5 Life Sentences.**

[District 21, April 21, 2023 -] A Cleveland County jury found Jesus Fuentes, the victim's stepfather, guilty of twelve counts of Child Sexual Abuse yesterday and recommended 5 life sentences and a total of 60 years in the Department of Corrections for each count.

"I am extremely proud of the diligent work of my prosecutors. Child sexual abuse cases can be some of the most challenging cases to bring in front of a jury, but they were able to seek justice and represent the victim in this case," says DA Mashburn.

"It also takes a lot of strength for a victim to stand up to their abuser in open court. We are very thankful that the victim in this case had the strength to tell her story. We hope it inspires other victims to come forward with their stories as well."

The jury also found the co-defendant and mother of the victim, Martha Fuentes, guilty of one count of Enabling Child Sexual Abuse and recommended a 5 year sentence in the Department of Corrections for her.

Both defendants are awaiting their sentencing hearing in custody.

The District 21 DA's Office serves Cleveland, Garvin, and McClain Counties under District Attorney Greg Mashburn. DA Mashburn's mission is to seek justice, protect communities, and represent those who have been victims of crime.

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Justice Found in Cleveland County Jury Trials

Another jury found Scherry Johnson guilty of feloniously pointing a firearm at her neighbor after a road rage incident. Ms. Johnson tried to move the victim's car after the road rage incident, but the victim did not grant Ms. Johnson permission to manipulate his vehicle. Ms. Johnson then pointed a handgun at the victim. The jury recommended a sentence of 18 months in the Department of Corrections.

A third jury found Tate Garcia-Alvarez guilty of a misdemeanor charge of Domestic Assault and Battery in the Presence of a Minor and recommended a sentence of one year in the Cleveland County Detention Center.

"Moving forward, I hope we can educate the community on the realities of domestic violence," says DA Mashburn. "The prosecutors in my office undergo domestic violence trainings to understand its complexities."

Jury trials are a fundamental part of the criminal justice system, our office understands that serving as a juror requires you to take time away from your job and family to assess the facts and evidence in a case to make a decision. We thank you for your time and we will update the public if any jury sentencing recommendations are changed.

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