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Testimony to Begin in Case of Man Charged with Raping Son

By Scott E. Williams
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GALVESTON, Texas – Testimony in the case of a man accused of sexually assaulting his 8-year-old son could begin today.

Attorneys in the criminal trial of Peter Michael Reed started picking jurors for the case Monday.

In 2002, a grand jury indicted Reed, 33, on one count of aggravated sexual assault of a child and one count of sexual performance of a child after an investigation by Children's Protective Services and Texas City police.

Reed's ex-wife, the boy's mother, alleged in a 1999 court hearing that her son suffered repeated sexual abuse while visiting Reed.

However, that hearing resulted in a Florida family court judge increasing Reed's unsupervised visitation time with the child.

Aggravated sexual assault of a child carries a possible prison term of five to 99 years. Sexual performance by a child carries a possible prison term of two to 10 years. Each charge also carries a possible fine of up to \$10,000.

In 1995, a Florida jury convicted Reed of physically abusing the same child, then less than 4 months old.

The jury found Reed guilty of shaking the infant, an incident that resulted in broken ribs, and later causing a head injury that resulted in a skull fracture.

Physician's reports showed the injury caused seizures and minor permanent brain damage.

Reed was sentenced to 42 months in prison, but a Florida judge changed the sentence to probation and released Reed after four months.