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**HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

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**News Release**

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**Teacher Gets 40 Years for Sex Assault on 5th-Graders**

The Harris County District Attorney’s Office obtained a 40-year prison sentence Thursday against a former schoolteacher for aggravated sexual assault and indecency on five of her fifth-grade students.

Brandy Lynn Gonzales, 30, pleaded guilty Aug. 4 to the series of sexual offenses during her 2003-04 assignment to Piney Point Elementary School.

Her husband, Johnny Ray Gonzales, 33, also received a 15-year prison term for sexually assaulting of one of his wife’s victims. They were boys 11 to 13 years old, who were enrolled in her classes.

  The offenses included fondling inside the classroom, oral sex during outings with some of the boys at a mall and movie theater, and intercourse at her residence.

  Prosecutor Denise Oncken, chief of the District Attorney’s Child Abuse Division, noted that some of the children involved had learning disorders. One of them was sexually assaulted by the husband and wife after he sought help from the teacher because of physical abuse at home. He attempted suicide after the revelations of the sexual encounters, Oncken said.

  “This defendant has broken my son into a million pieces,” Oncken quoted from the mother’s statement. The prosecutor said the teacher’s comments, even after her conviction, fit the profile of a classic, unremorseful predator.

      State 209th District Judge Michael McSpadden set the punishment after a hearing attended by some of the victims and their families.

The former teacher received 40 years for each aggravated sexual assault, and 20 years for sexual indecency with a child. The terms will be served concurrently.

(End)