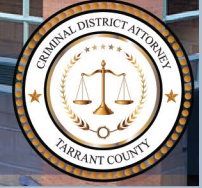


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sharen Wilson  
CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Contact: Samantha Jordan, Communications Officer

O: 817.884.3120, C: 817.914.4600

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, September 21, 2018

## **Man Sentenced to 4 Life Sentences for Aggravated Kidnapping, Aggravated Sexual Assault Of Fort Worth 6-Year-Old**

(Fort Worth, TX) – Edis Leonel Alas was sentenced to 4 life sentences by District Court Judge Louis Sturns this week for Aggravated Kidnapping and 3 counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child for the October 2016 attack on a 6-year-old Fort Worth girl. Alas was found guilty of these charges by a jury of Tarrant County residents on Thursday.

The young girl was asleep on the living room couch in her home when Alas, a stranger to the family, entered the family's home and kidnapped the child. Her parents awoke in the night to find her missing, and a large-scale search was immediately launched, bringing together family members, friends, police officers and dozens of volunteers from the community.

Around lunchtime the following day, a volunteer heard cries coming from a wooded area in Titus Paulsel Park and alerted police. As a police officer investigated, the child ran from an area of deep underbrush and lept into his arms. Alas was found hiding nearby, and he was taken into custody at the scene. Graphic photos were later recovered from his cellphone, and his DNA was found on the child.

The case was prosecuted by assistant criminal district attorneys Lloyd Whelchel and Cami Gildner.

*"What this defendant did is every parent's worst nightmare. The scars he caused will never go away,"* said prosecutor Cami Gildner. *"It was an honor to be able to stand up for the victim and her family."*

Alas, who used an interpreter throughout the trial, did not take the stand in his defense.

*"The Fort Worth Police officers involved in this case put their own lives on the line charging forward into this tangled brush to capture her attacker, and they were there in the courtroom to see him receive his sentences this week,"* said Gildner. *"Their ongoing commitment to the protection of this child has been truly moving to witness."*

## END ##