

# Phil Sorrells

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For Immediate Release

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## Arlington teen sentenced to 40 years for school shooting

(Fort Worth, TX) – The 16-year-old who fired shots earlier this year at Arlington Lamar High School – killing one student and injuring another – was sentenced Thursday by a Tarrant County jury to 40 years behind bars for capital murder and attempted capital murder.

On March 20, 2023, the juvenile took a shotgun to school. Before the first bell ever rang, he fired the shotgun outside the school into a group of students waiting for the school doors to be unlocked.

Sixteen-year-old Ja'Shawn Poirier was killed and a 16-year-old girl was hit in the face by shrapnel.

Assistant District Attorneys Lloyd Whelchel and Lee Sorrells, who prosecuted the case, showed a video of the shooting to the jury.

"Students were terrified," Sorrells told the jury. "There's nothing more terrible or terrifying for a kid than sitting there at school and then getting shot, getting killed. ... He set out to kill someone that day and he did."

The teen, who was 15 at the time of the shooting, admitted he was the shooter and asked a jury to determine his sentence. His name is being withheld because he is a minor.

"How many school shootings do we have to have for us to get a clue? Send a message to community that there is accountability for this kind of behavior," Whelchel told the jury. "He needs to be held accountable so we know we will be safe from him for the next 40 years."

The teen will be sent to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. Prior to his 19th birthday, the judge will determine whether he should go to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to serve the remainder of his sentence.

This past June, Whelchel and Sorrells sought to certify the teen to stand trial as an adult. 323rd District Judge Kim denied the state's request and kept the youth in the juvenile court system.

DA Investigators Caleb Blank and Jose Fonseca worked on the case as well.

Thanks to the Arlington Police Department for their work on this case and their commitment to keeping our community safe.