



# Sharen Wilson Criminal District Attorney



## For Immediate Release

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## Charges Dismissed Against Innocent Man

(Fort Worth, TX) – 371st District Judge Ryan Hill dismissed aggravated sexual assault charges today against Roger Earl Hawkins, 49, after the state's highest criminal court ruled Hawkins was innocent of his 1993 conviction.

Hawkins served 10 years in prison.

The Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office's Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) worked with the court-appointed attorney for Hawkins, Adam Arrington, to review and reinvestigate Hawkins' conviction.

"This is about setting the record straight," Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson said.

The new investigation determined Hawkins was innocent of the aggravated sexual assault charges alleged against him.

The CIU and Arrington also determined that Hawkins' due process rights were violated because prosecutors in 1993 withheld favorable material evidence, including alibi information, and that his attorney provided him ineffective assistance of counsel. Judge Hill agreed that Hawkins is entitled to relief on all grounds.

On August 24, 2022, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that Hawkins had established by clear and convincing evidence that he is innocent. The court vacated his conviction in this case.

"The criminal justice system failed Mr. Hawkins," CIU Chief Steven Conder said. "He was wrongfully convicted because there was no thorough investigation of his case or defense of him.

"Mr. Hawkins' life was fundamentally altered by mistakes made and I'm proud we were able to correct them."