



## Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

**Richard F. Cortez**  
*County Judge*

**David L. Fuentes**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 1*

**Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 2*

**Joe M. Flores**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 3*

**Ellie Torres**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 4*

**Public Affairs Division**  
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## NEWS ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, March 25, 2019

### **Felony Division prosecutors obtain guilty verdict with 80-year sentence in an aggravated sexual assault of a child**

**EDINBURG** –139th District Court Assistant District Attorney Ben Abila and his co-counsels Assistant District Attorneys Gracie Reyna and Maggie Hinojosa obtained a guilty verdict on March 20, against Francisco Javier Zamarippa who was found guilty of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child. He was given an 80-year sentence on March 21.

Francisco Javier Zamarippa, 38, was charged and convicted of sexually assaulting an 8-year-old girl. He was the live-in boyfriend of the mother of the child when the child suffered this atrocious abuse. Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr. commended the great investigative work of the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office. The Felony Division staff collaborated with the team of law enforcement investigators, forensic nurses, child protective services and victim advocates to bring justice for the child victim.

"Our office is very proud and commends the exemplary work of Ben Abila, Gracie Reyna, Maggie Hinojosa the Assistant District Attorneys and all the support staff who worked hard to seek justice and to give a voice to the child victim in the prosecution process," said Rodriguez.

We will continue to work together to protect our children and stand against abuse.

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*Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at [www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus)*