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NEWS

not guilty of assault

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A man who has been facing a charge of second-degree felony sexual assault of a child for two years in Fort Bend County was vindicated Thursday evening with a not-guilty verdict.

_____ was accused of having repeated sexual encounters with a 15-year-old girl in 2004. She had worked for _____ as a babysitter to his young daughter, and the two lived in the same apartment complex for a period of time.

The girl first made the accusation to a high school friend in 2006, and the sheriff's office was called to investigate when she also made the claim to a nurse at Katy High School.

_____, who has vehemently denied the charge, took the stand in court this week. His lawyer, Eric Davis, also called to the stand several of _____'s peers to speak in his favor, as well as other young women who had watched over his daughter.

With no physical evidence, the trial came down to the word of the victim against the word of _____, a point that both prosecutors and the defense conceded.

The defense attorney pointed out the victim had family problems and several of the girl's peers testified she had been known to say lies to gain attention. The prosecution turned the argument around, however, alleging _____ took advantage of the girl because she did not have a strong family life and was socially awkward.

The trial was heard at the county courthouse in the 240th District Court of Judge Thomas Culver III.

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