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Jackson, MS 39225-2747****SEPTEMBER 9, 2008****PRESS RELEASE BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROBERT SHULER SMITH**

Hinds County District Attorney Robert Shuler Smith announced today that a jury was selected to try Defendant Dexter Tyrone Johnson [1062 Wayside Drive, Utica, Mississippi; dob 2/6/77] on charges of Aggravated Domestic Violence and House Burglary, however, prior to the start of testimony on Tuesday morning, Johnson decided to plead guilty. Smith describes the evidence in the case to be that Johnson went to the home of his ex-wife of four [4] years on January 7, 2007, and asked to be let in. She refused and told him to leave or she would call the police. Johnson then used a piece of patio furniture to smash a plate glass patio door and broke into the house, which was occupied by five young children and his ex-wife. Johnson chased down his ex-wife and stabbed her in the head, face, left arm, and right hand, all in the presence of his young son and daughter and their cousins. Johnson then fled the scene, leaving behind the knife he used to stab the victim, but later turned himself in to Jackson Police officers. Hinds County deputies recovered the knife as evidence and made extensive photographs of the crime scene and the victims injuries.

Johnson agreed to plead guilty to the Aggravated Domestic Violence, Burglary of the Dwelling, and a subsequent charge of intimidating a witness where it was alleged that

Johnson threatened his ex-wife if she sent through with the charges. Johnson was sentenced to Fifteen [15] years on the Aggravated Domestic Violence, and an additional Fifteen [15] years on the Burglary of the Dwelling, for a total of Thirty [30] years, with the last Ten [10] years suspended leaving Twenty [20] years actual prison time; and an additional Five [5] years for the intimidating a witness charge which will run concurrent with the first Fifteen [15] year sentence. Johnson must also finish serving Eight [8] more years of a sentence for a prior felony offense prior to beginning the new sentence.

District Attorney Smith states: "In today's trial he faced 45 years if convicted of both counts, however, my office consulted extensively with the victim and her children and they wanted the sentence we recommended. I believe that him now facing Twenty-eight [28] total years in the penitentiary is a clear message that I will aggressively prosecute violent domestic crimes that have such serious effect on victims and their innocent children while also keeping in mind the wishes of the victims. Defendant Johnson's youngest child should be an adult by time he is eligible for release".