



**June 17, 2025**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Documented Dallas Gang Member Sentenced to 45 Years in First Case  
Solved with help of Dallas County DA Cold Case Email Campaign**

**(Dallas, Texas)** — Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot announced today that LaQuinton Dejuan Turner, 45, of Dallas, Texas, has been sentenced to 45 years in prison following his conviction for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child. A Dallas County jury returned the guilty verdict in a case dating back to 2001, solved through the work of the Dallas County District Attorney's Cold Case Division and its federally funded Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI).

The successful prosecution marks a major milestone for the DA's SAKI email campaign, which gives survivors of unsolved sexual assaults in Dallas County the ability to inquire about the status of their sexual assault kits by contacting the Dallas DA Cold Case Team directly. Under District Attorney Creuzot's leadership, the initiative ensures that no survivor is forgotten and that no kit is left untested.

"The purpose of the Cold Case and SAKI teams is simple: to make sure no sexual assault kit falls through the cracks, and every survivor gets the justice they deserve," said District Attorney John Creuzot. "Our office remains committed to testing every kit, solving every case possible, and holding violent offenders accountable."

**Case Background**

In the summer of 2001, a 16-year-old girl was walking to the bus stop near Peavy and Ferguson Road in the city of Dallas, when she was approached, followed, and violently assaulted by an unknown man. After the attack, the girl sought help and was taken by ambulance to the hospital, where a sexual assault examination was conducted. However, the evidence collected remained untested for more than two decades.

On September 29, 2022, prompted by a public awareness campaign initiated by DA Creuzot's Cold Case Division, the survivor contacted the Dallas County DA's Office to inquire about her case. Cold Case Investigator Jon Wakefield immediately launched an investigation.

"Once we discovered that this girl's sexual assault kit had never been tested, we tracked it down, sent it to the crime lab, and paid for the DNA testing," said Wakefield, who led the investigation and testified during trial. "That DNA result was the smoking gun that solved the case."

On June 21, 2023, the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences (SWIFS) developed a male DNA profile from

the victim's evidence. That DNA was submitted to the FBI's CODIS database, and by July 24, 2023, it matched LaQuinton Turner. Turner, a documented Dallas gang member, was an adult at the time of the assault.

### **Trial and Verdict**

During trial, Turner claimed his rights were violated due to the delay in testing the kit, but the jury disagreed.

"The only rights violated in this case were the victim's," lead prosecutor Haley Pratt told the jury in her closing argument. "The only injustice was that LaQuinton Turner raped her when she was 16 years old. She waited 8,761 days for justice. That ends today."

Co-counsel Assistant District Attorney Kristin Treager added, "Nearly 24 years later, she testified with nothing to gain except justice. Justice delayed will not be justice denied."

Both prosecutors are members of the DA's Cold Case Team.

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office extends its gratitude to the entire trial team, including ADAs Haley Pratt and Kristin Treager; Investigators Jon Wakefield and Lee Thompson; and Victim Advocates Mackenzie Kile and Sha'Lisa Carrier.

### **About the Dallas County DA's Office Cold Case Team**

Formed in 2015 through federal funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), the Dallas County Cold Case Team was created to address over 4,000 untested sexual assault kits collected by the Dallas Police Department. Today, the team investigates and prosecutes unsolved homicides and sexual assaults across the county. Since its inception, the team has received over \$10 million in federal funding, identified more than 100 known serial sexual offenders, and indicted 14 cold case murders—bringing long-overdue justice to more than 900 victims.

Survivors of sexual assault who wish to inquire about the testing status of their kit can email [DallasKits@dallascounty.org](mailto:DallasKits@dallascounty.org) or call 972-955-4923. For more information, visit [www.sakitta.org/Dallas](http://www.sakitta.org/Dallas).