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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton Man Sentenced to Prison for Putting Child into Vehicle Trunk
State v. Damon Ellis, 2020-CR-4041

DAYTON, OH (06/23/2021) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **DAMON EUGENE ELLIS**, 44, has been sentenced to serve at least 8 years in prison after being convicted on counts in connection to locking a child in the trunk of a vehicle as a punishment.

On Saturday, December 26, 2020, a neighbor called 911 after seeing the defendant forcibly drag an 8-year-old boy from the defendant's Water Street apartment and place the child in the trunk of a car. The caller reported that the child had no coat or shoes.

Video surveillance of the incident was obtained and showed the victim being forced into the trunk. The victim stated to the police that the defendant had put him in the trunk of the car as a way to discipline him.

On December 31, 2020, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted the defendant.

On June 8, 2021, after a trial, the jury returned guilty verdicts on counts of kidnapping and endangering children. Today, the defendant was sentenced to the maximum sentence of at least 8 years in prison. Additionally, the defendant was ordered to register as a Violent Offender upon his release from prison.

Prosecutor Heck added, "The actions of this defendant were shocking. He forced a child into the trunk of a car without shoes or a coat when it was about 20 degrees outside. Thankfully, a citizen called the police and reported what he saw. This is an excellent example of why we say, 'see something, say something.'"

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For more information, contact Mr. Greg Flannagan, Public Information Officer, at 937.225.5610 or info@mcpo.com