

Medical examiner details extent of child's injuries

By **JO ANN ZUÑIGA**
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A Harris County medical examiner described in graphic details how a 3-year-old girl suffered a slew of bite marks and other physical abuse before she died almost a year ago.

Tomas Gallo, 27, is on trial on charges of capital murder in the Dec. 11 death of Destiny Marie Flores. The child was savagely beaten, bitten and sexually assaulted. Gallo faces the death penalty if convicted.

Dr. Luis Sanchez of the medical examiner's office testified that the child had three overlapping bite marks on her stomach, another on her buttocks and a fifth on her upper left arm, plus 51 fresh, red bruises on her face and chin alone. A total of 180 external injuries covered her body.

He testified that internally she had three cracked ribs and all her major organs including her heart, lungs, kidneys and liver were injured by what appeared to be several kicks to her body and punches to the chest.

The cause of death was severe blunt trauma to the back of her head, such as a forceful blow, that fractured the skull, Sanchez said.

Her genital area was also traumatized by "forceful penetration," he said.

Destiny died on her third birthday.

Gallo had been living with the child's mother, Christina Arredondo, Destiny, and her 5-year-old sister for only a few months in a duplex at 1016 Ave. N. In addition to the four, Arredondo's sister and her two sons lived there.

Gallo was watching the girls that day while the mothers were at work and the two boys were in school.

Gallo called Arredondo at work about 1:45 p.m. to tell her that Destiny was not breathing. Arredondo did not call 911. Instead, she called a friend who met her at the home about 30 minutes later.

When she arrived home about 2:15 p.m. Destiny was unconscious. South Houston EMS crews saw Gallo driving away from the home as they arrived. He was arrested two days later.

Destiny was pronounced dead shortly after her arrival at Columbia Bayshore Medical Center in Pasadena.

Swabs from the bite marks on Destiny's body produced DNA that matches Gallo's, prosecutors have said. The child's DNA was found on a pair of Gallo's boxers.

But Gallo's defense attorney, Gerald Bourque has previously told the jury that South Houston police officers did not investigate the case thoroughly and the real killer is a convict with a proclivity for biting during sex.