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### **Joyride ends with 25-year sentence for man who fled deputies**

A man who led sheriff's deputies on a half hour chase, while taking a rugged Ford F350 pick-up on a joyride, was sentenced to 25 years in prison, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced Thursday.

Antonio DeJesus Garcia Jr, was convicted of Evading Arrest, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, and having a shank while he was in jail awaiting trial.

"It is miracle nobody was killed," said Assistant District Attorney Katherine

Thomas, who prosecuted the case. "He didn't care who was in his way or what could happen, but now he's headed to prison for a long time."

Garcia, 31, was stopped by a Harris County Sheriff's Office deputy shortly after midnight in May 2017 for driving erratically along Crosstimbers.

He bolted through intersections without even tapping his brakes.

Deputies gave chase, as he made his way to I-45, and on to the 610 Loop and the Southwest Freeway. Garcia later crashed the truck and jumped from its cab to continue his run, but was captured and cuffed.

Authorities never determined how Garcia got his hands on the truck, or if he was the one who first took it. The owner had been at work, did not even know his truck was missing, and said he'd never met Garcia, let alone gave him permission to drive it. Garcia was later found with a shank while in jail. The slender nine-inch long piece of aluminum was sharpened to a point, and hidden as a finger splint.

The trial in the 179<sup>th</sup> District Court lasted two days. He was convicted, then sentenced Tuesday by a jury.

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