

Fannin County Jury Reaches Guilty Verdict in Wal-Mart Price Tag Case

Fannin County Criminal District Attorney Richard Glaser announced on September 16, 2015, that a jury returned a guilty verdict in a case arising from price tag tampering at the Bonham Wal-Mart. Judge Charles Butler of the County Court-at-Law presided over the three-day trial of defendant Darl Garrison. Assistant District Attorney Benjamin I. Kaminar presented the State's case and Bob Jarvis of Sherman represented the Defendant.

Garrison was accused of removing a price tag from a tote box and placing it over the price tag of a more expensive truck box. Garrison then used a self-checkout register to scan the cheaper price tag, as well as concealing other items that he did not pay for at the register. Garrison was confronted by Wal-Mart loss prevention employees when he left the store. "You are the conscience of our community," Kaminar argued to the jury. "Send a message that this is not okay; enforce our laws." After hearing testimony and viewing video and photos from inside the store, the jury deliberated for approximately one hour before returning the guilty verdict. After Garrison pleaded guilty to a separate incident of shoplifting from the Bonham Wal-Mart and admitted to two other incidents at Wal-Mart, Judge Butler assessed punishment at a \$4,000 fine, the maximum fine possible for the offense. "We believe that the jury took their duty seriously and carefully considered the evidence in this case," stated Glaser. "This verdict is a message from the jury that stealing from any of our local businesses is unacceptable and will not be tolerated."