

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jury Convicts Canton Man of Raping a Child and Other Charges
State vs. Juan Nazario Lopez

April 29, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Friday, April 26, a Cherokee County jury convicted Canton resident Juan Nazario Lopez, 53, of five charges: rape, incest, aggravated child molestation, child molestation, and enticing a child for indecent purposes.

The guilty verdict was announced following a four-day trial in Chief Superior Court Judge Ellen McElyea's courtroom. The jury deliberated for about a day and a half. Judge McElyea set the sentencing hearing for May 8.

Cherokee Sheriff's Office began investigating these allegations on April 16, 2023, after a woman reported that her niece was being molested by a family member. Multiple family members were interviewed, and the child and her younger sibling participated in forensic interviews.

During the trial, jurors listened to testimony from 11 witnesses including law enforcement officers, an expert in dynamics of child sexual abuse, an expert in forensic interviewing, and the victim and her sibling.

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, of the Special Victims Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

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