

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cherokee County Man Sentenced to 40 Years, 25 to Serve for Assaulting His Wife
State vs. David Charles Kemp

August 1, 2019 – David Charles Kemp, 39, entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced on July 31 for brutally assaulting his wife in December 2018. He pled guilty to one count of aggravated assault-family violence, two counts of aggravated battery-family violence, three counts of battery-family violence, one count of violation of protective order, and one count of terroristic threats.

The domestic violence incident began in their home in Acworth, during which the defendant struck his wife in the face and throughout her body, causing a subdural hematoma, nasal bone fracture, facial contusion and laceration, contusion of extremities, and chest wall contusion.

When law enforcement responded, the victim was in Holly Springs, sitting in the driver's seat of her parked car, nearly 9 miles from her home. According to the responding officer, the woman was in distress, with a swollen face, and bruising all over her body. She told the officer the incident occurred two days prior but could not recall many details other than her husband had beaten her.

"This was one of the worst beatings I've ever seen. The assault likely happened over one or two days before she escaped. Due to trauma and brain bleed, the victim still suffers memory loss. She is lucky to be alive," said Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. "This is a classic example of how domestic violence can escalate. The defendant had assaulted his wife previously, and each incident was more brutal than the last."

During the hearing, the State played a recorded jail call in which the defendant said his wife "owed him," then made veiled threats to hurt her again when he was released from custody.

Judge Tony Baker said this is the worst case of domestic violence he has seen in which the victim survived. He told the victim she deserves to be "treated like a queen," not in this brutal manner. For her protection, Judge Baker said he will ensure no further contact with the defendant.

Judge Baker sentenced the defendant to 40 years, with the first 25 years to serve in the State Penal System. The sentence includes 20 years for one count of aggravated assault-family violence and 20 years (including an additional 5 years in prison) for one count of aggravated battery-family violence (to run consecutive). Concurrent sentencing included 20 years for one count of aggravated battery-family violence, 12 months for each of three counts of battery-family violence, 12 months for violation of protective order, and 12 months for terroristic threats. Upon completion of 25 years in custody, the remainder of the sentence may be served on

probation with specific conditions imposed, including no contact of any kind with the victim and no use of drugs or alcohol.

“We prosecute family violence to the full extent of the law,” said Cherokee County District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “These cases are heartbreaking. The victims are among our most vulnerable because they love their abusers and will do anything to make the abuse stop. Sometimes the only way to make the violence stop is through prosecution.”

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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Need Help?

If you or someone you know is a victim of family violence, please get help. The Cherokee Family Violence Center helps families impacted by intimate partner violence through a crisis hotline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, support groups for children and teens, a multicultural program, and legal advocates. For more information, go to CFVC.org.

Emergency Hotlines

24/7 Crisis Hotline: 770-479-1703

En Español: 770-720-7050

Toll Free: 1-800-33-HAVEN (42836)

Nationwide: 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)