

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 30 Years in Prison for Child Molestation

State vs. Brian Keith Cantrell

November 7, 2019 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that Brian Keith Cantrell, 41, has been convicted and sentenced for sexually assaulting a juvenile in Cherokee County.

After deliberating for seven hours over the course of two days, a Cherokee County jury delivered a guilty verdict on Tuesday, August 27. The defendant was later sentenced at a hearing on October 31.

The jury found Cantrell guilty of 1 count of aggravated child molestation, 5 counts of child molestation, 1 count of enticing a child for indecent purposes, 1 count of cruelty to children in the first degree, and 2 counts of violating family violence order.

The charges stem from incidents occurring from 2015-2017. The child reported the abuse to a relative who advised the child to go to law enforcement.

During her closing statements, Assistant District Attorney Cait Adcock, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State, said the defendant manipulated the victim and used his authority to coerce a child into cooperating with his sick desires.

“Brian Cantrell systematically molested a child over the course of two years. He claimed he was only ‘snuggling’ with the child, but his intentions were sick and perverted,” said Adcock, who tried the case on behalf of the State. “The victim was so brave in coming forward to ensure that other children will not endure sexual abuse from this man.”

On October 31, the victim spoke at the sentencing hearing, describing the pain and long-term effects of the abuse. Judge David Cannon Jr. then sentenced Cantrell to serve 30 years in prison, with the remainder of life on probation. Upon release, Cantrell will be required to register as a sex offender.

“The jury did a great job reviewing extensive evidence and ensuring that justice was served,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “The horrific abuse this child suffered is beyond conceivable. I’m pleased that when the child finally had the courage to report the abuse, caring adults listened and promptly took the child to the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office so the crime could be investigated. When adults commit these acts on innocent children, we as a society must act. People like Brian Cantrell need to be behind bars.”

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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