

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Canton Resident Pleads Guilty to Child Abuse**  
**State vs. Kyle Raymond Walter**

**April 20, 2021** – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that earlier this month Canton resident Kyle Raymond Walter, 29, pleaded guilty and was sentenced for abusing his toddler son, causing severe head trauma.

The charges relate to an incident that occurred on March 7, 2020, during which Walter injured his nearly 3-year-old son while the child’s mother was out shopping. The mother returned home to find her son bleeding from the mouth, having difficulty walking, and acting lethargic. She took the child to Northside Hospital Cherokee, where he was assessed then airlifted to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

Initially, the defendant denied wrongdoing, telling Canton Police that the child must have fallen after climbing onto a bunkbed or dresser. Walter eventually told investigators that he hit the child with a plastic baseball bat because he was misbehaving. The child later told police his father hit him with a large Thanos action figure toy.

At the plea hearing on April 8, Walter provided further details about the incident, explaining that he picked up his son by his upper thigh and threw him down, causing him to hit his head on action figures and other toys scattered on the floor.

The boy suffered multiple skull fractures, subdural hemorrhaging, and scattered subarachnoid hemorrhaging. While the child was receiving care at the hospital, medical staff noted bruises on various parts of his body, in different stages of healing.

During the hearing, Walter pled guilty to cruelty to children in the first degree, aggravated battery-family violence, and aggravated assault-family violence.

“Hearing Mr. Walter’s account of his actions was truly disturbing,” said Deputy Chief ADA Jennifer Gower Side, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. “It is hard to imagine the cruelty of a grown man throwing a small child to the floor in such a violent manner.”

After accepting Walter’s negotiated guilty plea, Cherokee County Superior Court Chief Judge Ellen McElyea sentenced the defendant to 20 years, with the first 8 years to serve in confinement. She ordered that he have no unsupervised contact with any child under the age of 18 during probation. He must also participate in a family violence intervention program, submit to mental health evaluation and treatment, avoid alcohol and drugs, and adhere to other special conditions.

“Innocent children should never suffer abuse at the hands of anyone, much less their own parent who should be committed to caring for and protecting them,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “It is our hope that this sentence will ensure that the defendant never harms another child.”

## **Preventing Child Abuse**

Whether abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, or neglect, or a combination, child abuse causes long-term effects for innocent victims. Everyone can play a part in protecting children and preventing this crime. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Take time to learn how you can help children thrive by supporting families before they reach a crisis.

Here are a few local and state resources:

- Anna Crawford Children's Center – [CherokeeChildAdvocates.org](http://CherokeeChildAdvocates.org)
- The Children's Haven – [CherokeeChildrensHaven.org](http://CherokeeChildrensHaven.org)
- Prevent Child Abuse Georgia – [Facebook.com/preventgeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/preventgeorgia)

*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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