

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canton Man Admits to Armed Assault of Wife Witnessed by a Child
State vs. Ronald Charles Lynch

September 17, 2021 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that Ronald Charles Lynch, 51, was sentenced on August 11 after pleading guilty in June to charges related to an aggravated assault on his wife that involved a firearm.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred in a Canton home late in the evening on March 11, 2020. While a child was present, Lynch grabbed his wife, pushed her down, and brandished a firearm. He pointed the weapon at his wife's forehead, with the barrel of the gun touching her skin. He pulled the trigger, the gun "clicked," but no bullet discharged.

Realizing that the gun was not loaded, Lynch went into another room to search for ammunition. At this point, the woman was able to escape from the home with the child. During the course of these events, the woman called 911 and the child remained on the phone with dispatch.

Lynch then went to a nearby residence and asked, through a surveillance camera, if his wife was inside that home. The surveillance video showed a man brandishing a weapon and pacing on the front porch. Canton Police arrived at this point and were able to detain Lynch.

"If there had been bullets in that gun, we would have been here for a murder trial," said Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. "He was surprised when the gun didn't fire so he went for bullets, and then he went looking for the victims. His actions are inexcusable. This could easily have been a homicide."

Lynch admitted during a June 16 plea hearing that he had committed aggravated assault - family violence, cruelty to children in the first degree, obstruction of an officer, battery - family violence, cruelty to children in the third degree, and simple assault (3 counts). After the defendant entered a non-negotiated plea, sentencing was set for a later date.

On August 11, Judge Anthony Baker sentenced Lynch to 40 years, with the first 20 years to be served in confinement and the remaining 20 years to be served on probation.

"On March 11, 2020, a woman and a child were subjected to a horrific situation in which one or both of them could have died. The child involved showed amazing courage in talking to 911 dispatchers so police were quickly alerted," said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. "Fortunately, the gun was not loaded and no one was physically injured. Through this sentence, the defendant will be held accountable for his actions, and these victims and our community will be protected from this defendant."

If you or someone you know is impacted by domestic violence, please contact the Cherokee Family Violence Center, CFVC.org, 770-479-1703 (24/7 crisis hotline). In case of an emergency, call 911.

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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