

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calhoun Man Found Guilty of Child Abuse and Aggravated Child Molestation, Receives Two Life Sentences
State vs. Christopher Matthew Davis

January 27, 2022 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that the Cherokee County District Attorney’s Office recently prosecuted a child abuse case in Gordon County that resulted in the conviction and lengthy prison sentence of Christopher Matthew Davis, 43. The case was assigned to the Cherokee County District Attorney’s Office when the Gordon County District Attorney’s Office was recused from the prosecution.

On December 6, 2021, after an eight day jury trial, the defendant was found guilty of 47 charges, including cruelty to children in the first degree (37 counts), aggravated assault-family violence (1 count), aggravated battery-family violence (2 counts), aggravated child molestation (1 count), aggravated sexual battery (1 count), child molestation (4 counts), and holding game without a permit (1 count).

Gordon County Superior Court Judge D. Scott Smith sentenced Davis on January 6, 2022, to two consecutive life sentences plus 841 years to be served in confinement, followed by 40 years of probation.

Davis’ charges relate to allegations of abuse and neglect of his nine step-children.

On February 6, 2020, a teenage boy escaped from his home and walked to a nearby police station where he told a detective about ongoing physical abuse at the hands of his step-father. The child said that Davis slapped and punched him, hit him with a stick, strangled him, burned him with hot oil, locked him in a closet, and beat him with a belt and a wooden cane. The child had visible injuries all over his head and body, in addition to a broken eardrum. The injuries were in varying stages of healing.

Later that day, the Calhoun Police Department arrested Davis and executed a search warrant of his home. Police officers noted that the children (ages 3-17) lacked adequate clothing, beds, blankets, and pillows. While searching the home, officers found a stick and belt used for beating the children. The only heated rooms were the master bedroom and a closet used to store exotic snakes and other reptiles.

The children participated in forensic and physical exams to determine the extent of the physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. Some examples include limiting food and water intake, restricting the use of the bathroom, forcing the children to eat spoiled food, locking them upstairs when their parents were away, and committing aggravated child molestation and sexual battery. The children also said Davis punished them by locking them in an unheated closet with no bathroom, strangled them until they passed out, forced them to sit on a fire ant pile while ants stung them, and burned them with items such as sparklers and hot oil.

The defendant threatened to have “people on the outside” kill them if the children reported the abuse.

At the time of the arrest, the children were homeschooled. Previously, they attended Gordon County Schools, where counselors reported suspected abuse in 2019 to the Division of Family & Children Services. One child was absent 62 days in a single school year. In May 2019, the children's mother withdrew the children. Once the children were no longer attending school, the violence escalated.

"The abuse these nine children suffered at the hands of this man was nothing less than torture. It took tremendous courage for one child to seek help for himself and his siblings while facing considerable risk," said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper, who prosecuted the case for the State. "Once the children were finally in a safe place, their continued courage and resilience led them to disclose more disturbing accounts of abuse. Due to the bravery of these nine remarkable kids and the Gordon County jury, we were able to hold Mr. Davis accountable for his inhumane and heinous actions and help these children take another step toward healing."

During the trial, the State called 20 witnesses and presented evidence including images of the home and the children's injuries. The defendant also took the stand. After closing arguments, the jury deliberated for just over three hours before finding the defendant guilty on 47 counts.

"This is one of the most horrific cases of child abuse I have encountered in my time as a prosecutor. Our hearts go out to these children who suffered so much at the hands of a man who was supposed to love and care for them," said Cherokee County District Attorney Shannon Wallace. "While these crimes did not occur in Cherokee County, our Special Victims Unit wholeheartedly took on the task of prosecuting this case to ensure that justice was served for these vulnerable victims. As a result of this conviction and lengthy prison sentence, no child will ever again have to endure this man's abuse."

The case was investigated by Det. Seth Densmore of the Calhoun Police Department, and prosecuted by Deputy Chief ADA Katie Gropper and ADA Rachel Hines of the Special Victims Unit, Cherokee County District Attorney's Office.

"Given the legal conflict prohibiting our office from prosecuting this matter, the Gordon County District Attorney's Office is grateful for the incredible hard work and dedication of the Cherokee County District Attorney's Office in prosecuting this matter for our agency. We value our partnership with District Attorney Wallace and her team in Cherokee County," said Gordon County District Attorney Samir Patel.

The District Attorney's Office 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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