

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canton resident found guilty of rape, incest, aggravated child molestation, and other charges
State vs. Santiago Jaimez

August 18, 2022 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that on June 23, 2022, a Cherokee County jury convicted Santiago Jaimez (aka Junior Jaimez), 39, of rape, incest, aggravated child molestation, criminal attempt to commit a felony, false imprisonment, and child molestation.

Canton Police Department arrested Jaimez on July 11, 2020, after conducting an investigation of sex crimes involving a child relative who disclosed the abuse to her mother.

During the course of the investigation, detectives learned that three other individuals, all relatives of Jaimez, had made similar allegations against the defendant years prior when he resided in another state.

“This case demonstrates the ongoing danger and harm that results when child sexual abuse allegations are ignored or swept under the rug,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper, of the Special Victims Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “Mr. Jaimez was never held accountable for the sexual abuse of three other children in his family in the past and, although many people close to him knew his history of victimizing children, he was still free to abuse the victim in this case. The best opportunity we have to protect innocent children and prevent future victims is to shine a bright light on the reality of child abuse even when it might cause conflict in the family setting.”

During the trial, the State called 18 witnesses to the stand, including the victim and three other individuals who described similar sex crimes committed upon them by the defendant when he resided in another state. After deliberating for about an hour, the jury issued its guilty verdict, finding the defendant guilty of all charges.

On June 24, 2022, Senior Judge Jackson Harris sentenced Jaimez, a recidivist offender, to life without the possibility of parole. During the sentencing hearing, Judge Harris called the defendant “vile” and “unredeemable,” adding that this is not a harsh sentence for the crimes he had committed, but an appropriate sentence.

“The day the victim of this case disclosed to her mom, she set in motion an investigation and prosecution that ultimately led to this conviction,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “Through this sentence, all the victims of his crimes, both here in Cherokee County and elsewhere, can finally have peace knowing that this defendant will spend the rest of his natural life in prison, no longer able to hurt little children.”

The case was investigated by the Canton Police Department, and prosecuted by Deputy Chief ADA Katie Gropper of the Special Victims Unit, Cherokee County District Attorney’s Office. The Anna Crawford Children’s Center conducted the forensic interview of the victim.

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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