

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Canton resident attempts to meet child for sex, discovers “child” is law enforcement officer
Cherokee County jury finds him guilty of all charges
State vs. Jerome Walker III**

August 23, 2022 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that Canton resident Jerome Walker III, 28, was sentenced to prison after a Cherokee County jury found him guilty of attempting to commit child molestation and attempting to pander a person under the age of 18.

Charges stem from an undercover investigation conducted by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office. In November 2019, Walker used an internet escort site to meet and communicate with a person he believed to be a 14-year-old girl. The child was actually an undercover law enforcement officer with the CSO’s Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) unit.

When Walker first initiated communications with the fictitious child, he asked if he could set up a “play date.” He asked the girl if she wanted to engage in sexual acts, and he offered to pay for her services. After texting back and forth, Walker and the person he believed to be a child agreed to meet at a location in Woodstock. When Walker arrived at the meeting place, CSO deputies arrested him.

“Mr. Walker made it abundantly clear that he wanted to engage in sex acts with a child. His motive was nothing short of disgusting,” said Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, of the Special Victims Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “While the child in this case was fictitious, it’s important to keep in mind that undercover investigations replicate real-life situations with the goal to identify, arrest, and prosecute individuals before they are able to harm an actual child.”

Following the jury conviction on May 18, 2022, Judge David Cannon, Jr. sentenced Walker on July 12, 2022, to 10 years with the first 5 years to be served in prison and the remainder to be served on probation. During probation, Walker must participate in psycho-sexual evaluation and treatment, adhere to sex offender special conditions, avoid alcohol and drug use, and not possess firearms.

“As this case clearly shows, the internet can be a dangerous place, with predators actively searching for unsupervised contact with vulnerable children, hoping to entice and entrap them,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “Thanks to excellent undercover work from CSO deputies, one of these

predators has been arrested, prosecuted, and effectively removed from our community before he could harm a real child.”

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, of the Special Victims Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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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