

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woodstock resident sentenced to prison after jury convicts him of family violence charges
State vs. Elfrem Keith Moore

December 29, 2022 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that a Cherokee County jury has convicted Elfrem K. Moore, 56, of multiple charges related to family violence. Senior Judge Neil Dickert sentenced Moore on December 6, 2022, to a total of 24 years, with the first 9 years to serve in prison.

Charges stem from domestic violence that occurred in a Woodstock home on December 26, 2021. Woodstock Police Department responded to multiple 911 calls reporting a break-in. Officers found the door to the home kicked down, with pieces of the doorframe lying on the floor and the deadbolt still in the locked position.

A woman inside the home told officers that Moore attacked her twice that day. In the first incident, Moore pushed her onto a bed and strangled her. She briefly lost consciousness and woke with the defendant still on top of her. He eventually left the home and she used the deadbolt to lock the door to prevent him from returning.

When Moore returned and was unable to enter the home he shared with the woman, he broke down their door, physically assaulted the woman, then slammed her to the bathroom floor, where he strangled her a second time. At one point, the victim attempted to call 911, but Moore grabbed her cell phone, threw it against the wall then dropped it into the toilet, rendering the phone unusable.

Utilizing a Strangulation Assessment Card, a responding officer determined that the victim exhibited multiple signs of strangulation, including red eyes, loss or lapse of memory, loss of consciousness, lip injury, mental status change, neck pain, jaw pain, difficulty breathing, vision changes, and hearing changes.

Moore was arrested and charged with family violence aggravated assault, family violence battery, violating a Family Violence Order, hindering an emergency telephone call, and criminal trespass.

“Woodstock Police did an excellent job investigating this crime. We’d like to especially acknowledge the work of Officer Chandisaita Mutasa who thoroughly documented the signs of strangulation and testified at trial,” said Assistant District Attorney Kelly Chavis, who co-prosecuted the case for the State. “The defendant in this case is a dangerous man who had no regard for the safety of the woman he hurt. He minimized his actions, suggested she was the one to blame, and showed no remorse at the time of the crime.”

During the trial, which took place October 17-21, 2022, the jury heard testimony from responding officers, watched video of the investigation including the victim’s statements, and saw photos of the damage to the door and the condition of the home after the incident. The jury found Moore guilty of all charges.

At the sentencing hearing on December 6, 2022, Assistant District Attorney Alana Driscoll paused for 15 seconds, leaving the courtroom in complete silence, as a means to demonstrate how long Moore strangled the victim in this case.

“Fifteen seconds of pressure applied to the neck blocks blood flow and prevents oxygen from flowing to the brain, destroying brain cells. Fifteen seconds of pressure causes a person to lose consciousness. Strangulation can be as lethal as a gunshot or a stab wound to the heart. This man purports to love this woman, but his behavior suggests otherwise,” said Assistant District Attorney Alana Driscoll, who co-prosecuted the case for the State.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Dickert sentenced Moore as a recidivist. Due to the defendant’s four prior felony convictions, he will not be eligible for parole. After he is released on probation, he must adhere to special conditions of probation including completion of a Family Violence Intervention Program, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, no violent contact with the victim, no alcohol or drug use, and no firearms.

“When a crime of domestic violence occurs in Cherokee County, our law enforcement officers and prosecutors are committed to holding the defendant accountable for the protection of both the victim and the community at large,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace.

This case was investigated by the Woodstock Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alana Driscoll and Assistant District Attorney Kelly Chavis, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence typically follows a pattern, with tension building, followed by a major act of violence, a calm period, and then cycling back to tension building. As time passes, the violent episodes often get more serious and may lead to a lethal act.

Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence even though injuries may appear to be mild or victims may have no visible marks. According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, strangulation is the ultimate form of power and control in which the batterer asserts control over the victim’s next breath. Odds for homicide increase substantially (750%) for victims who have been previously strangled.*

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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* “All Abusers Are Not Equal”: New IPV Research Reveals an Indicator of Deadly Abuse.” January 8, 2022. Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention. www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com/all-abusers-are-not-equal-new-ipv-research-reveals-an-indicator-of-deadly-abuse