

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 molesting child under the age of 16
State vs. David M. Blackburn

January 5, 2023 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that a Cherokee County jury found David M. Blackburn, 63, of Canton, guilty of child molestation and cruelty to children in the first degree. Senior Judge Jack Partain sentenced Blackburn on October 6, 2022, to a total of 20 years, with the first 10 years to be served in confinement and the remainder to be served on probation.

In December 2019, Canton Police Department began investigating Blackburn after a child reported that she was being sexually abused by a member of her family. The victim participated in a forensic interview at the Anna Crawford Children’s Center, where she provided detailed accounts of acts of child molestation that occurred from 2014 through 2019.

“For years, this child tried to tell individuals in her life that Mr. Blackburn was touching her in inappropriate and sexual ways. Instead of believing her, they insisted that she was mistaken and confused about his intentions,” said Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, of the Special Victims Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “This case divided a family and forced a child to choose between telling the truth or lying to appease family members. The victim in this case showed amazing strength throughout the investigation and prosecution of this crime.”

At the conclusion of the four-day trial, the jury convicted Blackburn of three counts of child molestation and one count of cruelty to children in the first degree.

“This defendant was a trusted adult to this innocent girl who looked up to him like a father. He said he was her best friend, and she loved him. He returned that love by manipulating her and using her for his sick perversions,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “This sentence protects this victim and others in our community from this sexual predator.”

This case was investigated by the Canton Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, 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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