

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SUSAN K. TREADAWAY
District Attorney

Cherokee County Justice Center
90 North Street, Suite 390
Canton, GA 30114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cyndi Crossland
Public Information Officer
cbcrossland@cherokeega.com
770-479-1488

Acworth man admits to aggravated child molestation; sentenced to prison
State vs. Alexander David Eppsteiner

July 17, 2023 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on April 20, 2023, Alexander David Eppsteiner, 27, of Acworth, Cherokee County, entered a non-negotiated guilty plea to two counts of aggravated child molestation and two counts of child molestation. Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced Eppsteiner to 30 years to serve in prison, followed by life on probation. He will also be required to register as a sex offender.

In April 2021, Cherokee Sheriff's Office began investigating allegations of sexual abuse after a 10-year-old boy told his parents that Eppsteiner, who is a relative, had been abusing him since he was 7 years old.

As part of the investigation, the victim participated in a forensic interview in which he provided details of specific acts including inappropriate touching, showing the child pornography, and oral and anal sodomy.

“It is common for those who prey on children sexually to place fear in their victims not to come forward, and in this case, Eppsteiner threatened the victim ‘not to be a snitch.’ This child’s courageous disclosure led to the discovery of other victims of child sexual abuse. In the face of overwhelming evidence, the defendant decided to enter a guilty plea, which in turn removed a serial offender from our community,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, of the Special Victims Unit, District Attorney’s Office.

During the prosecution of this case, the District Attorney’s Office became aware of similar incidents involving Eppsteiner, which were used in aggravation of sentencing during the non-negotiated plea.

In January 2017, Eppsteiner used his cell phone to secretly take a photo of an 8-year-old boy while the boy was using a toilet in a public restroom. In January of 2021, he engaged in sexual conversations and shared obscene photos with a 14-year-old boy who lived in New York. A forensic examination of Eppsteiner’s cell phone uncovered sexually explicit images of the Cherokee County victim and other male children, as well as numerous photos of unidentified boys using public restrooms.

“Through collaborative efforts of several agencies, including the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office, the Anna Crawford Children’s Center, and the District Attorney’s Office, this sex offender has received a just punishment for his despicable crimes,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “We are proud of the brave boy who had the courage to tell his parents about the abuse, ensuring that this defendant is unable to hurt another child.”

After serving 30 years in prison, Eppsteiner will spend the rest of his life on probation with special conditions that include no contact with the victim or specific family members, no alcohol and drug use, and sex offender special conditions.

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, Special Victims Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

Sexual Abuse of Children

Child abusers often engage in a grooming process that allows them to perpetrate sexual abuse undetected. "Grooming" in the context of child sexual abuse is a manipulative process intended to secure the child's silence. Common characteristics of the grooming process include targeting the child, gaining the child and caregiver's trust, filling a need, using flattery and gifts, isolating the child, sexualizing the relationship, and maintaining control.

Children who have been groomed are often conflicted about their feelings for the abuser because he/she has methodically established a positive relationship with the child prior to introducing sexual touches. Children who have been groomed are also more likely to conceal the abuse and delay disclosing the abuse to others.

To report suspected child abuse, call Child Protective Services at 855-422-4453. If the child is in immediate danger, 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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