

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Recidivist offender pleads guilty during trial and is sentenced to prison**  
**State vs. Christopher George Roberts**

**July 28, 2023** – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on June 20, 2023, Christopher George Roberts, 52, pled guilty to terroristic threats, family violence aggravated assault, and theft by taking.

Following the guilty plea, which occurred on day 3 of a jury trial, Superior Court Judge David Cannon Jr. sentenced Roberts to 30 years, with the first 15 years to serve in prison. The State prosecuted Roberts as a recidivist offender, thereby rendering him ineligible for parole. After 15 years in prison, the remainder of his sentence may be served on probation with special conditions including payment of restitution, no contact of any kind with the victims, and banishment from Cherokee, Forsyth, and Dawson counties.

Canton Police first became aware of Roberts on April 2, 2020, while investigating a report of a stolen truck. Roberts had moved from Burlington, North Carolina to Canton in March 2020 to live with his girlfriend. Also living in the house were Roberts' ex-wife and her boyfriend.

Several weeks after moving in, Roberts borrowed a truck to haul furniture back to Burlington. When he did not return the truck as expected, his girlfriend and ex-wife phoned and texted. He responded by threatening them and refusing to return the truck, which was then reported as stolen.

“Both of the women were fearful for their lives. During a phone call, Roberts told his ex-wife that he’d snap her neck ‘like a twig,’” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe, of the Domestic Violence Unit, Office of the District Attorney. “In text messages, he told his girlfriend he would cut her throat. He also threatened gun violence with law enforcement officers.”

After the stolen truck was located in Gainesville, Canton Police advised responding officers to use “extreme officer safety” in apprehending Roberts. A Canton police officer reached Roberts by phone to reason with him. Instead, Roberts talked about his relationships with the two women and said that the police were going to have to shoot him. He also threatened to crash into another vehicle head-on or kill himself by running off the road.

Using a PIT maneuver, Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office apprehended the defendant, who was later brought back to Cherokee County to face charges of terroristic threats and theft by taking. Then, during a bond hearing in Cherokee County Superior Court, the two women testified on his behalf, blaming his behaviors on drug abuse. He was released on bond, placed on an ankle monitor, and ordered to avoid drugs and alcohol.

“Whether it was threats of violence, apologies, or promises to change – this defendant used every tool in the kit to manipulate the people in his life. He always had an excuse for his behavior, and it was never his fault,” said Deputy Chief ADA Ashe.

Just over five months later, on August 17, 2020, Canton Police received another 911 call involving Roberts. While his girlfriend was at work, he became intoxicated and logged onto her *Facebook* page to read her private messages. He sent her multiple angry texts, accusing her of being unfaithful. When she went home to talk to him, he grabbed her by the throat and applied pressure until she lost consciousness. As soon as she woke up, he told her, “I just put you to sleep” and “I could have killed you right then.” He then threatened her with a knife, busted a hole in the wall, and left the home with her phone, wallet, and car.

Responding officers examined her injuries, noting red marks around her neck, a scratch on the right side of her neck, and petechiae in her eyes. While the police were on scene, the defendant called his ex-wife, apologizing for his actions and claiming he was drunk and would die tonight. Officers were also able to speak to him by phone, at which time he said that the police would have to kill him.

Roberts then cut off his ankle monitor, fled Georgia, and abandoned his girlfriend’s car in South Carolina, where it was later recovered. He was apprehended in Virginia after stealing another vehicle and fleeing from law enforcement in that state. The defendant served time in Virginia before returning to face charges in Cherokee County.

“Domestic violence cases often follow a pattern of abuse, cycling from tension building to violence to calm. In time, the episodes become more intense, even fatal. The defendant blamed drugs and alcohol for his abuse, but the real culprit was Christopher Roberts himself – the drugs and alcohol only amplified his rage,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “With this sentence, this cycle of violence has ceased, and these victims no longer have to live in fear of threats or abuse.”

This case was investigated by the Canton Police Department and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe, of the Domestic Violence Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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.

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*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.*