

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canton man to serve decades in prison for sex crimes with a disabled adult
State vs. Troy Dean Hickman

August 8, 2023 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on May 15, 2023, Troy Dean Hickman, 59, of Canton, pled guilty to two counts of aggravated sexual battery and two counts of exploitation and intimidation of a disabled adult.

The Cherokee Sheriff's Office first became aware of these allegations in November 2022 after the young woman disclosed the abuse to a friend. Hickman, who was a relation, frequently spent time alone with the victim, committing the acts over the course of several years, beginning when the victim was approximately 18 years old.

“Victims of sexual assault are often afraid to come forward, and that was certainly the case here. The victim is intellectually disabled and had been subjected to repeated threats of harm by this defendant as he attempted to prevent her from revealing the abuse. She bravely overcame that fear by seeking help,” said Assistant District Attorney Elliot Stone, of the Domestic Violence Unit, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. “While Troy Hickman admitted to his crimes, he used alcohol as an excuse for his despicable behavior and even suggested that the victim was partly to blame.”

As part of the investigation, the Anna Crawford Children's Center conducted a forensic interview in which the victim described the specific acts by Hickman that resulted in the charges of aggravated sexual battery.

During the plea hearing, the victim's mother addressed the court, describing the impact of Hickman's crimes on her child and the entire family.

Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced Hickman, as negotiated, to 20 years in prison followed by probation for the remainder of his life. Through the duration of his sentence, Hickman is forbidden to have contact with the victim or her family. He must also obtain a psycho-sexual evaluation, receive treatment for substance abuse, and adhere to sex offender special conditions. The defendant will not be eligible for parole during his 20-year prison sentence.

“The victim looked to this defendant as a father figure, and it is despicable that he would manipulate her trust and vulnerability for his own sexual desires,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Our hope is the victim and her family will find peace and healing in knowing that this defendant has received justice for his crimes and that he will never again be able to hurt another individual in this way.”

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office. Prosecution was handled by Assistant District Attorney Elliot Stone, of the Domestic Violence Unit. The Anna Crawford Children's Center conducted the forensic interview.

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