

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

Cherokee County jury finds Canton man guilty of drug trafficking; judge sentences to prison
State vs. Jimmy Wayne Wampler

September 15, 2023 – Cherokee County District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on August 23, 2023, a Cherokee County jury found Jimmy Wayne Wampler, 58, guilty of trafficking methamphetamine. Following the guilty verdict, Superior Court Judge Tony Baker immediately sentenced Wampler to 30 years with the first 15 years to serve in confinement and the remainder on probation.

Since the State prosecuted Wampler as a recidivist offender, he was sentenced pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(a) and § 17-10-7(c), which together require Wampler to receive the maximum total number of years for his crime and to serve the entire prison portion of his sentence without parole eligibility. Judge Baker also banished Wampler from Cherokee County and ordered him to pay a \$200,000 fine along with other standard conditions of probation.

Wampler's trafficking charge stems from a 911 call on September 23, 2022. That night, an individual working at J. Michaels Prime called 911 to report that a man had passed out in the parking lot. Canton Police and Cherokee Fire & Emergency Services were dispatched to the scene where they found Wampler with a backpack.

While emergency personnel resuscitated the unconscious man, Canton Police spoke to witnesses and gathered evidence. Inside the backpack, officers found Wampler's wallet and identification, in addition to a large amount of methamphetamine.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation determined that the methamphetamine totaled 66 grams, substantially more than the 28-gram threshold required for the trafficking charge per Georgia law. Following the law enforcement investigation, Wampler was charged with one count of trafficking methamphetamine.

"During trial, jurors heard testimony that Jimmy Wampler was not only trafficking methamphetamine but, in fact, had also overdosed on the very same drugs he had in his possession that day," said Assistant District Attorney Aaron Smothers, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. "This defendant created a dangerous situation for himself and all those around him."

The defendant has had two prior felony convictions for possession of methamphetamine, as well as a third for aggravated stalking.

“In communities across our county, in places you might least expect, criminals engage in the distribution and trafficking of drugs. This past fall, while patrons were eating dinner at a local restaurant, this defendant was wandering around the parking lot carrying a large amount of methamphetamine in his backpack,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Due to the investigation conducted by law enforcement and the State’s securing a conviction in this case, this drug dealer will serve every day of his 15-year sentence in prison.”

This case was investigated by the Canton Police Department and the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad, with assistance from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aaron Smothers, 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.

###