

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



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Jury convicts man of aggravated assault on girlfriend; judge sentences him to 10 years in prison**  
**State vs. Gregory Bryan Coggins**

**November 15, 2023** – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that a Cherokee County jury convicted Gregory Bryan Coggins, 38, of family violence aggravated assault, family violence battery, and cruelty to children in the third degree, following a trial that ended on August 23, 2023. Coggins was sentenced on October 31, 2023.

On February 16, 2023, Cherokee Sheriff's Office first became aware of domestic violence allegations involving Coggins, after responding to a request for a welfare check at a home that Coggins shared with his girlfriend, who was nine weeks pregnant, and their infant child.

Several days prior, Coggins had become violently angry and physically assaulted his girlfriend. During the assault, he grabbed her by the throat and strangled her. She was unable to recall all the details of the attack, which left her with a large bruise covering much of her chest, as well as other bruises on her arms, neck, and back.

"Gaps in memory suggest that the victim likely lost consciousness while Coggins applied pressure to her throat, cutting oxygen and blood circulation, as he strangled her," said Deputy Chief Rachel Ashe, of the Domestic Violence Unit, Office of the District Attorney. "When law enforcement investigated this crime, they found the victim with bruises in various stages of healing, indicating that this abuse had been going on for some time."

During the three-day trial, jurors listened to testimony from eight witnesses and viewed 41 pieces of evidence before convicting Coggins on three counts.

On October 31, 2023, Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace sentenced Coggins to 20 years with the first 10 years to serve in prison and the remainder to serve on probation. Special conditions of the sentence include completing the Family Violence Intervention Program, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, and community service, as well as no contact with the victim or their children.

"This case highlights the need for family and friends to step up and speak out when they become aware of loved ones caught in a cycle of abuse. A simple welfare check can save a life," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "This young woman showed tremendous courage throughout the investigation and prosecution of this case, and this sentence protects her from further abuse at the hands of this defendant."

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe, of the Domestic Violence Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence typically follows a pattern, with tension building, followed by a major act of violence, a calm period, and then cycling back to tension building. As time passes, the violent episodes often get more serious and may lead to a lethal act. This pattern of abuse is often referred to as the "Cycle of Violence." According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. Odds for homicide increase substantially for victims who have been previously strangled.

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.*