

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing
Man Convicted of Family Violence Crimes Sentenced to Prison
State vs. Morris Michael McCoy

February 27, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that a Canton man convicted of family violence aggravated assault and cruelty to children in the third degree (2 counts) was sentenced on Friday, February 23, to serve the next 10 years in prison. A Cherokee County jury convicted Morris Michael McCoy, 45, of these crimes on February 15, following a one-day trial.

Charges stem from a strangulation in the Walmart parking lot on Riverstone Parkway, Canton, on April 30, 2023. Canton Police Department began investigating after a witness reported that a man was strangling a woman outside a parked black SUV.

The police investigation determined that while shopping with McCoy and two children, the victim discovered that the defendant had drained their joint checking account. The two began to argue verbally and the argument eventually became physical to the point that McCoy strangled the woman against their car as two children watched.

“Domestic violence almost never starts with physical violence. Many of those caught up in the cycle of violence describe a slow escalation of control and isolation that eventually boils over, much like the evidence showed in this case,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe of the Domestic Violence Unit. “Morris McCoy still doesn’t believe he did anything wrong. Luckily law enforcement and the jury both saw him for who he is – an abuser.”

A total of eight witnesses testified during the trial, including law enforcement officers and an expert in domestic violence, who described the cycle of abuse common in these relationships.

During Friday’s sentencing hearing, the State presented evidence that McCoy is a recidivist offender with at least four prior felony convictions.

Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace sentenced the defendant to a total of 20 years, with the first 10 years to serve in prison and the balance to serve on probation. As a recidivist offender, he must serve all 10 years in prison. He is also forbidden to have any contact with the victims.

“The act of strangulation can quickly lead to death. We are thankful a passerby witnessed the incident and alerted law enforcement before the violence escalated even further,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “It is especially disturbing to know that two children witnessed this attack. We are hopeful that all involved will be able to begin healing now that the defendant has been brought to justice through this conviction and sentence.”

The 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.

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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.

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