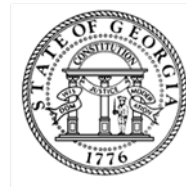


OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Notice of Conviction and Sentencing*

**Convicted by Jury of Aggravated Child Molestation, Woodstock Man is Sentenced to 30 Years in Prison  
State vs. Romualdo De Pedraza**

**May 16, 2024** – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on Thursday, May 2, Superior Court Judge David Cannon, Jr., sentenced Romualdo De Pedraza, 27, of Woodstock to 30 years to serve in prison followed by life on probation for aggravated child molestation and cruelty to children in the first degree.

At the conclusion of a four-day jury trial, a Cherokee County jury found De Pedraza guilty on March 28. Prior to the verdict, the jury deliberated for four hours.

Charges stem from a Cherokee Sheriff's Office investigation that began when a child under the age of 10 disclosed that De Pedraza had sexually assaulted her. A family member called 911 to report the allegations. In August 2020, the child participated in a forensic interview at the Anna Crawford Children's Center, where she provided details of the defendant's actions.

"Nearly four years ago, this defendant told an innocent child they were just playing a game, then committed unspeakable sexual acts on her," said Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish. "A family member became her hero when he called 911 and ensured that this crime would be investigated and prosecuted, giving her the justice she deserves."

In addition to the victim, the State called six witnesses to the stand, including law enforcement officers and an expert in forensic interviews and the dynamics of child abuse. The State also presented 18 exhibits, one of which was a video recording of the child's forensic interview.

"During the investigation of this case, the Anna Crawford Children's Center provided a safe space for this child to share the details of what happened to her that night. The forensic interview served as the foundation for a successful prosecution of this case, ensuring that another sexual predator will spend significant time behind bars, unable to hurt other children," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "We are thankful to have such an impactful resource for child victims in Cherokee County.

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, of the Special Victims 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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