

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holly Springs Man Sentenced to Life in Prison Following Guilty Verdict
State vs. Bryan Lamar Gay

May 31, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on May 28 Chief Superior Court Judge Ellen McElyea ordered Bryan Lamar Gay, 52, to serve a sentence of life in prison. A Cherokee County jury convicted Gay of all charges on May 16.

The jury found the defendant guilty of two counts of aggravated sexual battery, two counts of aggravated child molestation, and three counts of child molestation.

Law enforcement first became aware of these allegations on January 25, 2023, when a middle school child disclosed sexual abuse. The child first told her mother, who contacted Holly Springs Police. The child and her younger sibling participated in forensic interviews. Other family members were also interviewed.

Several people in the extended family disclosed disturbing behavior of a sexual nature involving this defendant over the course of many years.

During the trial, 10 witnesses testified for the State, including law enforcement officers, an expert in dynamics of child sexual abuse and forensic interviewing, a sexual assault nurse examiner, family members, and the victim. The defendant also testified.

While the charges in this case were based on incidents involving one child in Cherokee County, details of other allegations were presented to the jury through the testimony of witnesses for the State. These details showed the defendant's extended manipulation and influence over the family.

“This defendant subjected a family to decades of grooming and sexual abuse of young children. One of these children, who is now an adult, said she would have taken this secret to the grave, had the victim in this case not come forward,” said Assistant District Attorney Alana J. Driscoll, of the Special Victims Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “This man systematically manipulated people he purported to love, building trust, only to harm innocent children.”

During the sentencing hearing, the Court heard from three victims. The child's mother described how Gay had tricked her into trusting him and had shattered their world. The child victim described her feelings of betrayal and disgust.

After listening to arguments from the State and the Defense, Judge McElyea sentenced the defendant to life in prison. He must also register as a sex offender and have no contact of any kind with the named victims.

“During the trial, this defendant testified for hours, deflecting his actions, blaming others, and trying to manipulate the jury. Fortunately, the jury saw through his lies and, instead, believed the heart-wrenching, vulnerable testimony of an innocent child who this man sexually abused,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Our hope is that this sentence brings peace and healing to all those this defendant has harmed, as well as ensuring that he cannot hurt another child ever again.”

The case was investigated by the Holly Springs Police Department with assistance from the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alana J. Driscoll, 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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