



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, Cherokee County
90 North Street, Canton GA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Repeat Offender Sentenced to Prison After Pleading Guilty to Selling Meth and Possessing Firearms *State vs. James Wylie Stroud Jr.*

CANTON, GA (June 11, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on May 19 James Wylie Stroud Jr., 57, of Woodstock, entered a non-negotiated guilty plea to 13 drug-related charges and was sentenced to prison.

During the hearing, Stroud pled guilty to sale of methamphetamine (2 counts), possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of drug-related objects, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (8 counts).

These charges stem from an investigation that began in October 2025 when the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS) became aware that Stroud was selling methamphetamine in Cherokee County and was storing methamphetamine in a detached garage on property belonging to his mother. CMANS agents were familiar with Stroud, who had been sentenced in September 2025 on an unrelated drug charge.

In October and November 2025, undercover agents purchased methamphetamine directly from Stroud in two separate controlled narcotics transactions that took place in the detached garage and at a Kroger parking lot near the defendant's home. In the two transactions, Stroud sold a total of 8.1 grams of methamphetamine.

On November 29, 2025, law enforcement executed a search warrant at the detached garage and his mother's house, which was located on the same property. In the detached garage, agents found a fishing bag with a black box containing 10 grams of methamphetamine, approximately 1 gram of methamphetamine in a baggie, approximately 1 gram of dimethyltryptamine (DMT), and a digital scale and small baggies consistent with drug distribution. The garage also contained ammunition of various calibers.

In the basement of the mother's house, CMANS agents located a gun safe containing eight firearms: a Winchester rifle, Mossberg rifle, Ruger rifle, G Force Arms shotgun, Kimber pistol, Galesi-Brescia pistol, Hi-Point pistol, and Smith & Wesson pistol. Stroud later admitted that the guns belonged to him.

A forensic extraction of the defendant's phone uncovered additional evidence, including texts describing trading and selling guns.

"During this investigation, CMANS agents uncovered a significant amount of evidence, including controlled purchases of methamphetamine, narcotics seized during the execution of a search warrant, firearms possessed by a convicted felon, and text messages documenting criminal activity," said Assistant District Attorney Elliot Stone,

who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “The thorough work of law enforcement allowed the State to present a compelling case that resulted in a substantial prison sentence.”

At the plea hearing, Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis heard the facts of the case and sentencing recommendations from the State and the Defense prior to imposing the sentence.

Judge Davis ordered Stroud to serve 25 years, with the first 15 years in prison. The entire prison portion of his sentence must be served without parole eligibility since he was sentenced as a recidivist offender pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-10-7(c).

“This defendant’s criminal history shows a pattern of drug-related offenses spanning decades. When an individual continues to violate the law and harm the community, the State’s pursuit of a lengthy prison sentence is the only appropriate response,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “We are thankful that a dangerous drug dealer has been removed from our streets.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad, with assistance from the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Elliot Stone, 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.

CONTACT:

Cyndi Crossland
Public Information Officer
cbcrossland@cherokeecountyga.gov
770-479-1488