

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Repeat Offender to Serve 15 Years in Prison for Aggravated Stalking
and Violating Family Violence Order
State vs. Christopher Mackey Kaufman**

May 3, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on April 10, 2024, Christopher Mackey Kaufman, 39, was sentenced to serve 15 years in prison after entering a non-negotiated guilty plea to six counts of aggravated stalking and five counts of violation of a family violence order.

This is the fifth time over the past eight years that Kaufman has been charged and convicted in cases involving stalking and harassing the same victim.

At the non-negotiated plea hearing, Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe, of the Domestic Violence Unit, presented the facts of the case as follows. Kaufman and the victim had been in an intimate relationship and had a child together. During the relationship, the victim said Kaufman physically assaulted and threatened her, but she never called law enforcement.

In 2016, the Cherokee Sheriff's Office first became aware of Kaufman's criminal actions. While investigating this case, CSO deputies determined that Kaufman had been watching the victim's home, calling her repeatedly, and sleeping in a trailer on her property. After his arrest, he continued to contact her from jail. He was then found guilty of 22 misdemeanors including stalking, criminal trespass, harassing communications, criminal attempt to commit a misdemeanor, and violation of a protective order. He was sentenced to serve time in jail and ordered no contact of any kind with the victim. A permanent protective order also forbade him from contacting the victim.

Kaufman did not follow these orders. He continued to commit acts of harassment and intimidation involving the same victim. He was charged, prosecuted, and sentenced four more times. All illegal contact with the victim occurred while he was incarcerated. He used contraband cell phones from the state prison to reach out to his ex-girlfriend via social media.

"Modern culture often depicts 'stalking' as either non-threatening, romantic gestures or as direct, violent threats. In reality, aggravated stalking is typically a more subtle contact that inflicts fear and terror in its intended target. This defendant was violent with the victim when they dated, to the point that he threatened to kill her if he couldn't have her," said Deputy Chief Ashe. "With this history, his relentless contact with the victim was perceived as sinister and dangerous."

At the conclusion of the hearing, Superior Court Judge Tony Baker considered arguments by both the State and the Defense before sentencing Kaufman to 35 years, with 15 years to serve in prison. He is forbidden to have contact with the victim and banned from the State of Georgia.

“Our Domestic Violence Unit is trained to look at lethality factors during the prosecution of cases, and aggravated stalking is one of the most serious signs that a victim is in imminent danger. Repeated unwanted contact, surveilling, threats, and other acts of stalking have a serious and long-lasting effect on the victims of this crime,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Our hope is that this long prison sentence will bring peace of mind to a woman who has endured years of this defendant’s criminal behavior.”

This case was investigated by 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.

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.

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