

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jury Convicts Canton Man of Molesting 8-Year-Old Child
State vs. Xavier Matthew Jennings

August 29, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that, at the conclusion of a three-day jury trial in Chief Superior Court Judge Ellen McElyea’s courtroom, a Cherokee County jury convicted Canton resident Xavier Matthew Jennings, 22, of two counts of aggravated child molestation.

The jury deliberated for nearly two hours before coming to its unanimous decision on August 29. After the guilty verdict was announced, Judge McElyea set the sentencing hearing for September 4.

The defendant was charged with these crimes following a Holly Springs Police Department investigation of allegations involving an 8-year-old child and Jennings. After the child disclosed the sexual abuse to a grandparent in June 2018, law enforcement became involved.

Multiple family members were interviewed, and the child and his siblings participated in forensic interviews at the Anna Crawford Children’s Center.

During the trial, seven witnesses testified for the State including a law enforcement officer, an expert in pediatric sexual assault examination, an expert in forensic interviewing, family members, and the victim. The Defense called four witnesses to the stand.

The case was investigated by the Holly Springs Police Department and prosecuted by Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper and Assistant District Attorney Macelyne Williams, of the 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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