

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SUSAN K. TREADAWAY
District Attorney

Cherokee County Justice Center
90 North Street, Suite 390
Canton, GA 30114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Conviction
Guilty But Mentally Ill Verdict in Cult Baby Murder Trial
State vs. Chloe Alexis Driver

November 20, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that, on November 20, a Cherokee County jury found Chloe Alexis Driver, 24, guilty of the murder of her 13-month-old daughter Hannah Nicole Driver.

The jury deliberated for less than three hours before finding Driver guilty but mentally ill of all charges, specifically: malice murder, felony murder (aggravated assault), felony murder (cruelty to children in first degree), aggravated assault, and cruelty to children in the first degree.

A verdict of guilty but mentally ill means that the jury rejected the defendant's insanity defense and found that she was criminally responsible for her actions. Driver will still be sentenced according to the laws of the State of Georgia, and the Georgia Department of Corrections will have the responsibility of addressing her mental health needs while she is incarcerated.

Cherokee County Chief Superior Court Judge Ellen McElyea set sentencing for December 12.

The defendant was charged with these crimes after a Canton Police Department investigation of a stabbing that occurred on December 8, 2020, in a home in the Mountain View neighborhood in Canton. Driver and her companions had stopped at the home while traveling from North Carolina to Florida. The group, who were part of a cult, consisted of two men, three women, and the baby.

Shortly after arriving at the home, Driver removed a knife from the kitchen and brought it upstairs to a bedroom. She then locked the door and stabbed her daughter in the neck, causing fatal injuries, then stabbed herself.

The baby's father attempted lifesaving measures until first responders arrived. Canton Police, Cherokee Fire, and Northside Cherokee personnel continued lifesaving measures, but ultimately Hannah died of her injuries. An autopsy determined that Hannah had been stabbed four times, with wounds to her right carotid artery, proximal esophagus, 4th cervical vertebra, and right upper back.

"The facts of this case are deeply disturbing, and our hearts go out to all who responded and provided care to 13-month-old Hannah Nicole Driver, an innocent little girl who was stabbed to death by her own mother," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "During the trial, jurors watched bodycam footage of Cherokee County first responders fighting for Hannah's life. Canton Police officers, Cherokee County firefighters, and Northside Cherokee Hospital personnel demonstrated incredible dedication and compassion, even to the point of exposing themselves to horrific trauma that haunts them to this day."

The trial took place over the course of six days, plus deliberations. A total of 21 witnesses testified, with 15 called by the State. In addition, the State presented 135 exhibits as evidence, including 911 recordings, crime scene photos, the murder weapon, and other physical evidence.

The Defense argued that the defendant was insane at the time of the crime and could not be held criminally responsible. But the State presented evidence that Driver's actions did not meet the criteria for insanity under Georgia law.

In her closing argument, Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper told the jury that Driver's actions were not criminal insanity. Gropper added that Driver made a conscious decision to kill her daughter, understood her actions were wrong, and knew she had other options. Yet, she still brutally stabbed and killed her daughter.

"No matter how hopeless you feel, no matter how desperate you feel, no matter how angry you feel, no matter how frustrated you feel, you don't get to commit the act of murder, and that is the law," said Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper in her closing. "That was a violent, heinous, horrible way to die. And I don't care how bad your life is, you do not get to do that to this baby girl, and there be no consequences for you. She chose that life. Hannah did not. Hold her responsible."

The case was investigated by Canton Police Department and prosecuted by Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper, with the assistance of Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Geoffrey Fogus, 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.

CONTACT:
Cyndi Crossland
Public Information Officer
cbcrossland@cherokeega.com
770-479-1488