

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 Sentencing

Woman Who Murdered Her Baby is Sentenced to Life with Possibility of Parole
State vs. Chloe Alexis Driver

December 13, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that, on December 12, Chief Superior Court Judge Ellen McElyea sentenced Chloe Alexis Driver, 24, to serve life in prison for the murder of Hannah Nicole Driver, her 13-month-old baby. The defendant will be eligible for parole after serving 30 years in state prison.

During the sentencing hearing, the baby's father provided an emotional victim impact statement in which he described what a joyful, pleasant child Hannah was. He said that she was different from other children and her death was a great loss.

"While yesterday's sentencing officially closed this case, this tragedy will stay with us forever," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "Hannah Nicole Driver will always be remembered as a beautiful baby girl whose life was taken way too soon. We are deeply appreciative for our first responders and their efforts to save this precious life that day."

On November 20, a Cherokee County jury found Driver guilty but mentally ill of malice murder, felony murder (aggravated assault), felony murder (cruelty to children in first degree), aggravated assault, and cruelty to children in the first degree.

Driver 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 there while traveling from North Carolina to Florida. Shortly after arriving at the home, Driver took the baby to an upstairs bedroom, where she stabbed her with a kitchen knife, 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 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.

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

Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State, told the jury 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.

At the sentencing hearing, Gropper described the “fear, pain, and panic” the 13-month-old baby must have experienced in the final moments of her life as she was “slaughtered” by her own mother.

“Hannah was an innocent, defenseless, and helpless baby girl. Her last experiences on this Earth were of her mother repeatedly plunging a knife into her tiny body,” said Gropper. “Since then, this defendant has continued to demonstrate callous indifference and disregard for the life of her own child.”

A verdict of guilty but mentally ill means that the jury rejected the defendant’s insanity defense and found that Driver was criminally responsible for her actions. The Georgia Department of Corrections will have the responsibility of addressing the defendant’s mental health needs while she is incarcerated.

The trial took place over the course of six days, followed by 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 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.

###

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