

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Multiple Violent Crimes Lands Waleska Man in Prison for 20 Years, Followed by Probation
State vs. Edward Shawn Garrett

March 28, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on March 24, Edward Shawn Garrett, 48, of Waleska, pled guilty to a series of violent crimes, including family violence aggravated assault, aggravated assault, aggravated stalking, and obstruction of an officer.

At the conclusion of the non-negotiated plea hearing, Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis sentenced Garrett to 50 years, with the first 20 years in prison and the remainder on probation.

Charges stem from four different incidents involving Garrett, all of which occurred in Waleska over the course of nine months.

On Nov. 9, 2023, a witness reported that Garrett illegally shot a deer on private property on Little Refuge Road in Waleska and loaded it into the trunk of a Ford Taurus. When Cherokee Sheriff's Office deputies attempted a traffic stop of the car, Garrett sped off to his home then fled on foot into nearby woods. Deputies located Garrett in the woods and asked him to come forward. Instead, Garrett threatened to shoot them. He refused to follow commands and resisted arrest before ultimately being taken into custody. The deer was found inside the trunk of the car.

On March 22, 2024, Garrett threatened a man and a woman with a 3-foot PVC pipe, then used the pipe to damage their property. The couple was living near Garrett's home in Waleska. When Cherokee Sheriff's Office responded, Garrett hid in the woods, where he was arrested. While on scene and during his transport to the Cherokee County adult detention center, Garrett made threats to deputies.

On July 13, 2024, Cherokee Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call reporting possible domestic violence involving a woman who resided with Garrett. The woman told law enforcement her injuries (a black eye and bruises) resulted from a physical altercation with Garrett about a week prior. When deputies informed Garrett he was under arrest, he appeared to comply but then tried to run away. Deputies used tasers to apprehend Garrett, who continued to resist arrest. He was granted bond, subject to conditions that included no contact with the victim. He was also forbidden to return to that address.

On July 24, 2024, Cherokee Sheriff's Office was dispatched to a domestic violence call made from a church in Waleska. Two women, including the victim in the prior incident, reported that Garrett had forced his way into the same Waleska home and threatened to kill them and let law enforcement kill him. They escaped the home and called 911. Garrett was arrested and several firearms were taken into evidence. He violated bond conditions by forcibly entering the home and having contact with the victim.

“Throughout each of these incidents, this defendant demonstrated a blatant disregard for the law, authority, and basic human decency. What was particularly alarming was how quickly he escalated into violent outbursts, issuing dangerous threats not only to victims but also to law enforcement officers,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe, of the Domestic Violence Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “His actions highlight a pattern of profound disregard for the safety and wellbeing of others.”

During Garrett’s sentencing hearing on March 24, the State presented evidence including bodycam footage, prior convictions, and photographs of injuries. In addition, a victim provided an impact statement and a detective with the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office shared his ongoing concern for the safety of the victims, the public, and law enforcement if this defendant were released from custody.

Before announcing the sentence, Judge Davis noted the severity of Garrett’s violent behavior and the threat he poses to the community. She denied Garrett’s request for drug court due to the gravity of his offenses. She then sentenced Garrett to 50 years, with 20 years to be served in prison and the remaining 30 years on probation. Special conditions of probation include no contact of any kind with named victims in the case, participation in a family violence intervention program, evaluation and treatment for mental health and substance abuse, and forfeiture of all weapons related to the crimes.

“This case highlights the challenges law enforcement officers face when confronting repeat violent offenders who continuously threaten public safety,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “This sentence holds this defendant accountable and serves as a powerful reminder of our unwavering commitment to protecting victims and ensuring the safety of all citizens.”

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic violence, support is available. Contact the Cherokee Family Violence Center at CFVC.org or call the 24/7 crisis hotline at 770-479-1703. In case of an emergency, please call 911.

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.

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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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