

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Defendants to Serve 25 Years in Prison for 2022 Home Invasion
State vs. Kaiden Luc Pridgen and Cibias John Vieira

April 9, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Kaiden Luc Pridgen, 19, and Cibias John Vieira, 23, both of Acworth, have pled guilty and been sentenced to prison for charges related to a home invasion and attempted armed robbery that occurred in a home off Lower Birmingham Road in Canton.

The defendants admitted to eight charges: home invasion in the first degree, criminal attempt to commit armed robbery, kidnapping, aggravated assault (3 counts), possession of tools for the commission of a crime, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

The Cherokee Sheriff's Office began investigating this case after receiving 911 calls on Feb. 4, 2022, reporting a home invasion just after 11 p.m. that night. Residents of the home reported that two people wearing masks and gloves entered their house with a black semi-automatic pistol, then demanded money.

One victim was struck with the pistol, leaving a visible injury on his forehead. The other was forcibly moved from her hiding spot and brought to the kitchen, where she was held at gunpoint with the other victim. The defendants searched the home for cash and left when they found none. Home surveillance cameras captured the entry into the home and audio of the struggle in the kitchen.

CSO identified the defendants using geofence and cell tower records. Additional evidence was obtained through social media accounts, including photos of the defendants with guns and cash. The investigation also determined that the defendants intended to steal a substantial amount of cash from a man who previously lived at that address.

At the time of the incident, Pridgen was 16 years old. Due to the severity of the crime, the District Attorney's Office prosecuted the case in Superior Court.

"In making the determination to prosecute a 16-year-old defendant as an adult, the State considered the violent nature of this crime and determined it is in the interest of public safety to prosecute him accordingly," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "We are committed to holding all dangerous offenders accountable and ensuring the safety of our community."

During Pridgen's non-negotiated sentencing hearing on March 11, the Defense recommended a 25-year sentence, with 10 years to serve in confinement, which is the minimum sentence under Georgia law.

Assistant District Attorney Megan S. Hertel, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State, argued for a sentence of 35 years, with 25 years to serve in confinement. In support of the recommendation, the State

emphasized that Pridgen escalated the crime into a home invasion because he was the first to enter the home, carried the gun, and used the gun to attack one of the victims.

ADA Hertel also told the court that Pridgen committed other crimes after the home invasion, including violating conditions of probation and bond, as well as witness intimidation of the co-defendant.

At the conclusion of the March 11 hearing, Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis followed the State's recommended sentence and ordered that Pridgen serve a sentence of 35 years, with the first 25 years in confinement. While on probation, Pridgen is banned from Cherokee County.

Judge Davis previously sentenced co-defendant Cibias John Vieira to 35 years, with the first 25 years to serve in confinement, after he entered a negotiated guilty plea on February 18 for the same charges. Both defendants are forbidden to have contact with the victims and each other, in addition to other special conditions of probation.

"Home invasion is among the most terrifying of crimes because it involves invading the sanctity of a person's home. These victims did not have anything physically taken from them, but they were robbed of their peace of mind, which is something that can never be replaced," said ADA Hertel. "The defendants in this case demonstrated a complete disregard for the law and for the collateral consequences of their actions."

A third individual, David Emory Kelley, 22, of Woodstock, was prosecuted separately for his part in this crime. Kelley pled guilty on April 8 to burglary in the first degree and conspiracy to commit home invasion. Kelley was a co-conspirator in that he selected the target and served as the driver. He accepted responsibility for his actions and fully cooperated with the State throughout the prosecution of this case. He was sentenced to 20 years, with the first 5 years to serve in prison and the remainder to serve on probation.

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Megan S. Hertel, of the Gang/Organized Crime 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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