

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing
Acworth Man to Serve 20 Years in Prison for Child Molestation
State vs. Dustin Luther Wilkes

April 11, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on April 8, Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis sentenced Dustin Luther Wilkes, 45, of the Acworth area of Cherokee County, to prison for two counts of child molestation.

Wilkes will serve a sentence of 40 years, with the first 20 years in prison and the remainder on probation, subject to sex offender special conditions. He is also forbidden to have contact with the named victims in the case. A Cherokee County jury found Wilkes guilty of these charges on February 25.

Charges stem from a Cherokee Sheriff's Office investigation that began in December 2023 after a child disclosed that Wilkes had been sexually assaulting her for several months. The defendant was known to the child and committed the acts when the child was in third grade.

"This predator manipulated his way into this family, to the point that he was often alone with an 8-year-old child and able to commit these criminal acts of molestation upon her. In the span of five months, a happy little girl became quiet and withdrawn," said Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, of the Special Victims Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. "Everything changed the day the child attended a Shop with a Cop Christmas event. That night, she found the courage to tell her mother what this man had been doing. In that moment, this little girl took the first steps to toward justice and healing."

After the disclosure, the child participated in a forensic interview during which she described how Wilkes would climb on top of her and rub his body on her body and tell her he loved her. He also told her not to tell anyone what he was doing.

During the two-day trial, the victim, disclosure witnesses, lead detective, and an expert on child sexual abuse disclosure testified for the State. Additionally, a second victim provided testimony concerning a similar sexual assault committed by the defendant in a different jurisdiction. On February 26, the jury deliberated for under 30 minutes before finding the defendant guilty of all charges.

At the April 8 sentencing hearing, the State argued for a sentence of 40 years, with the first 20 years to serve in prison, while the Defense recommended a sentence of 20 years, with the first 5 years to serve. Prior to pronouncing her sentence, Judge Davis spoke about the bravery of the child and the positive impact law enforcement had on the course of her life through the Shop with a Cop event.

“It was law enforcement that made her safe. It was that involvement in her life that made her realize that there are adults out there to protect you, to care for you, to support you, and she acted immediately upon that,” Judge Davis during the sentencing hearing.

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, of the Special Victims 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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