

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing
Canton Man Sentenced to 45 Years for Child Molestation and Sexual Battery
State vs. Brian James Holland

July 3, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on June 30 Brian James Holland, 48, of Canton, was sentenced to 45 years, with the first 20 years to serve in prison and the remainder on probation. The sentence was handed down by Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis following Holland’s conviction in June on multiple child sex abuse charges.

A Cherokee County jury found Holland guilty on June 20 of two counts of child molestation and three counts of sexual battery against a child under 16. The jury deliberated for approximately an hour before returning a guilty verdict on all charges.

The Canton Police Department began investigating this case on December 23, 2021, after a father called 911 to report that Holland had engaged in inappropriate sexual contact with his daughter. The contact that night occurred first when Holland had the child sit on his lap, and later when he approached her alone.

During the investigation, a second child disclosed that Holland had sexually abused her on a previous date. Both children were known to the defendant. They each described inappropriate touching of intimate areas of their bodies.

At trial, the State called 10 witnesses to testify, including the victims, law enforcement officers, a child abuse expert, and others who were present in the home. Key evidence included a video game livestream showing the victim abruptly getting up from Holland’s lap, a phone call recording in which the child tearfully described the abuse, and testimony from a witness who overheard Holland apologizing to the victim.

“The evidence showed that the defendant not only violated the trust of children who knew him but also tried to deflect responsibility by shifting blame,” said Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “When the abuse was first reported, it was deeply troubling that an adult the child trusted told her to forgive the defendant because he was intoxicated. Thankfully, responsible individuals – a neighbor, family members, and other children – acted quickly to protect the children once the allegations surfaced.”

At sentencing, ADA Frankish argued for a severe penalty, highlighting aggravating factors including Holland’s refusal to accept responsibility, his betrayal of the children’s trust, and the lifelong emotional harm he caused.

Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis agreed with the State's recommendation and sentenced Holland to 45 years, with the first 20 years to serve in prison. While on probation, Holland will be subject to sex offender special conditions and is prohibited from having contact of any kind with the named victims.

"By speaking up, one brave child opened the door for another to come forward and share her own experience of sexual abuse by the same defendant. Her courage set in motion an investigation that ultimately held the defendant accountable for the crimes he committed against both girls," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "We are thankful for the verdict of the jury and the sentence of the court – both send a clear message that the voices of victims will be heard in Cherokee County and that our office prioritizes the safety of children and aggressively prosecutes those who harm them."

The case was investigated by the Canton Police Department 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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