

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing
Prison Sentence for Man Convicted of Burning a Child with a Cigarette
State vs. Lior Talker

July 11, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that, on July 10, Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace sentenced Lior Talker, 44, of Canton, to 20 years, with the first 10 years to serve in prison, for cruelty to children in the first degree.

Talker was found guilty of this charge on May 16, following a three-day trial, in which the jury heard evidence that Talker burned a child under the age of 10 with a cigarette, causing a second-degree burn.

Cherokee Sheriff's Office began investigating this case in 2024, after a counselor observed a circular burn wound in the center of a child's back and recommended a medical evaluation. The child was taken to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, where physicians determined the wound matched the shape and characteristics of a cigarette burn.

Following the jury's guilty verdict, Judge Wallace scheduled a sentencing hearing for July 10. During this hearing, the State recommended a lengthy sentence, citing the cruelty of the child's injury as well as the lasting psychological impact the defendant inflicted on two children involved in this case. Both children, who were known to the defendant, testified at trial about the allegations of abuse.

"Trial evidence showed that the defendant burned the child in anger, pressing a cigarette into the center of the child's back and holding it there," said Assistant District Attorney David Bailey, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. "This act was not accidental or impulsive; it was malicious, calculated, and cruel."

During the sentencing hearing, the child's mother delivered a victim impact statement, describing the emotional and physical trauma the family has endured. She expressed relief that their voices have been heard and said the family is now focused on healing.

At the conclusion of the July 10 proceedings, Judge Wallace sentenced Talker to 20 years, with the first 10 to serve in prison and the remainder on probation. The judge also ordered no contact of any kind with the named victims and supervised contact with all children under the age of 18.

"Heartbreaking testimony during trial revealed a disturbing act of violence committed in anger against a vulnerable child," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "The court's sentence appropriately reflects both the severity of the harm and the need to protect others from similar abuse."

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David Bailey, 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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