

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing

Ball Ground Man to Serve Two Life Sentences Plus 19 Years for Sex Crimes Against a Child

State vs. Zachery Allan Maltman

October 1, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on September 29, Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis sentenced Zachery Allan Maltman, 37, of Ball Ground, to two consecutive life terms plus an additional 19 years in prison, following his jury conviction for sex crimes against a child.

A Cherokee County jury found Maltman guilty on August 27 of two counts of aggravated sexual battery, aggravated child molestation, and two counts of child molestation.

Charges stem from a Cherokee Sheriff's Office investigation that began in September 2022, when the victim's mother reported that Maltman had been sexually abusing her child, who was under the age of 16. Maltman was known to the child and had regular contact with her. The child later disclosed that the abuse had been ongoing for approximately a year.

During the sentencing hearing, the victim's mother described the day her daughter broke down and disclosed the abuse, recalling how Maltman told her: "You can cry, but cry quietly."

"These six little words play through my head regularly, every day," the victim's mother said in her impact statement. "That night will forever be burned into my memory. That was the night...she took on a man she had been so extremely afraid of. I'll forever be proud of her for that."

Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State, argued for the maximum sentence, highlighting aggravating factors including the defendant's refusal to accept responsibility, his manipulation of witnesses, and the emotional trauma suffered by the victim.

"This defendant showed the Court repeatedly that he is not someone who can be amongst the rest of us. Throughout the duration of this case, the State showed that he manipulated everyone around him. He preyed upon a child who trusted him and looked up to him because he knew she would keep his secret. But she was finally able to disclose to someone who made her feel safe, which took a level of strength no child should have to muster," said ADA Frankish.

Before imposing the sentence, Judge Davis acknowledged the victim's courage and the devastating impact of the defendant's actions. She addressed the courtroom, saying that the victim held her head high during her testimony and brought a strength that everyone present noticed.

Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis then sentenced Maltman to two life sentences to be served consecutively, followed by 19 years.

“This maximum sentence reflects the heinous nature of the defendant’s abuse and the profound harm he inflicted on an innocent child,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “We commend the resilience of this child, whose courage to come forward ensured that this predator will never again harm a child.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, of the Special Victims Unit, and by Assistant District Attorney Rebecca Visockis, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

Sexual Abuse of Children

Child abusers often engage in a grooming process that allows them to perpetrate sexual abuse undetected. “Grooming” in the context of child sexual abuse is a manipulative process intended to secure the child’s silence. Common characteristics of the grooming process include targeting the child, gaining the child and caregiver’s trust, filling a need, using flattery and gifts, isolating the child, sexualizing the relationship, and maintaining control.

Children who have been groomed are often conflicted about their feelings for the abuser because he/she has methodically established a positive relationship with the child prior to introducing sexual touches. Children who have been groomed are also more likely to conceal the abuse and delay disclosing the abuse to others.

To report suspected child abuse, call Child Protective Services at 855-422-4453. If the child is in immediate danger, call 911.

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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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