

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SUSAN K. TREADAWAY
District Attorney

Cherokee County Justice Center
90 North Street, Suite 390
Canton, GA 30114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Conviction & Sentencing
Acworth Man Found Guilty of Possessing Explicit Photos of Children, Sentenced to Prison
State vs. Todd Randolph Shelton

October 3, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Todd Randolph Shelton, 61, of Acworth, was found guilty on September 30 of all six counts of sexual exploitation of children he faced at trial.

Immediately following the verdict, Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced Shelton to 30 years, with the first 15 years to be served in prison.

Charges in this case stem from a Cherokee Sheriff's Office investigation that began when a detective specializing in Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) identified an IP address in Cherokee County that was sharing illegal videos of child sexual abuse. Further investigation traced the activity to a small business on Hickory Springs Industrial Drive in Canton.

On January 30, 2025, Cherokee Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at the business, and the Intelligence Unit performed a forensic examination of computers and cell phones used by the company's six employees.

Shelton, who served as the office manager and IT support, was found in possession of sexually explicit images of children on his cell phones. Investigators also determined that he had used his work desktop computer to download and share illegal materials on multiple dates from November 2024 through January 2025.

No other employees were found to possess any explicit materials, and only Shelton had access to his work computer.

"The defendant was fueling a market that thrives on the exploitation of children. Every click, every download, every share tells this market, and those in it, that there is a demand for this, and that demand means more children are put at risk," said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, of the Special Victims Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State.

During the two-day trial, the State presented testimony from the business owner, ICAC detective, and digital forensics expert. The State introduced 33 exhibits, including a forensic report identifying thousands of files of child sexual abuse material on Shelton's personal laptop.

The jury deliberated for about 20 minutes before returning a guilty verdict on all charges.

After hearing sentencing recommendations from both the State and the defense, Judge Baker sentenced Shelton to 30 years, with the first 15 years in prison. He was sentenced as a sex offender and ordered to have no contact of any kind with a child under the age of 18, in addition to other special conditions.

“This case is an example of the critical role that ICAC detectives serve in our community. Using sophisticated tools, these highly trained officers are constantly monitoring the internet to keep our children safe,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “We are thankful for the relentless work of the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office in bringing this predator to justice.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, 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.

CONTACT:

Cyndi Crossland

Public Information Officer

cbcrossland@cherokeecountyga.gov

770-479-1488