

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Conviction
Canton Man Found Guilty of Sex Crimes Against a Child
State vs. Antonio Eliberto Lopez-Peren

October 7, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Antonio Eliberto Lopez-Peren, 50, of Canton, was found guilty on October 3 of all charges related to the sexual abuse of a pre-teen.

A Cherokee County jury convicted Lopez-Peren of the following charges: rape (1 count), trafficking of persons for sexual servitude (2 counts), and child molestation (1 count).

These charges stem from a Canton Police Department investigation that began in April 2024, after the child told a friend about the sexual abuse.

During the investigation, the child participated in a forensic interview at the Anna Crawford Children's Center, where she explained that the abuse occurred over a five-month period. She said that at first Lopez-Peren was nice to her. He would visit her when her father was working and bring her food and buy her gifts. The abuse began with inappropriate touching and escalated to rape.

The five-day trial began with jury selection on September 29 and ended on October 3. The State presented testimony from 16 witnesses, including the child, the child's father, Canton Police officers, and experts on forensic interviewing and the dynamics of child sexual abuse. Prosecutors also introduced 27 exhibits, including the forensic interview, photographs of the home, and cell phone records.

After deliberating for an hour and a half the jury found the defendant guilty of all charges. Sentencing will be set at a later date.

The case was investigated by Canton Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope, of the Special Victims Unit, with assistance from Assistant District Attorney Tyler Sims, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

INFORMATION ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN: Child abusers often engage in a grooming process that allows them to perpetrate sexual abuse undetected. 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. 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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