



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, Cherokee County
90 North Street, Canton GA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jury Conviction & Sentencing
Repeat Offender Sentenced to 30 Years for Trafficking Over One Kilo of Methamphetamine
State vs. Ricky Dwight Wright

February 25, 2026 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Cherokee County Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace has sentenced Ricky Dwight Wright, 39, of Fannin County, as a recidivist offender, to 30 years in prison for trafficking methamphetamine. A Cherokee County jury found Wright guilty of this charge on February 24, and sentencing took place on February 25.

Wright was also ordered to pay the mandatory \$1 million fine required under Georgia law for trafficking more than 400 grams of methamphetamine.

On March 4, 2025, at approximately 1:15 a.m., a Woodstock police officer conducted a traffic stop on an Acura sedan traveling north on I-575 after determining that an individual associated with the vehicle had an active warrant.

While officers were conducting the stop, one passenger attempted to conceal and then discard a drawstring bag. Law enforcement immediately recovered the bag, which contained more than 175 grams of methamphetamine packaged inside plastic grocery bags.

K-9 Tesa was deployed for an open-air sniff and alerted to the presence of narcotics inside the vehicle. Officers then located another grocery bag, hidden beneath towels on the rear passenger floorboard. The bag contained approximately 993 grams of methamphetamine.

In total, law enforcement seized more than one kilogram of methamphetamine.

A forensic review of Wright's phone revealed text messages discussing traveling from North Georgia to Atlanta to obtain methamphetamine.

“This case began with a Woodstock Police officer whose proactive policing led to the seizure of more than a kilogram of methamphetamine and to three offenders ultimately being held accountable. As a result, our community is now safer,” said Assistant District Attorney Leland J. McElveen Jr., who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State.

During the trial, the State presented testimony from six law enforcement witnesses and introduced evidence including dash camera footage, photographs of the seized drugs, and Wright's text messages.

Following less than two days of testimony, the jury deliberated for about 15 minutes before returning a guilty verdict on the sole charge of trafficking methamphetamine.

“Thanks to the vigilance of law enforcement and the jury’s verdict, a repeat offender who was trafficking a significant amount of methamphetamine will no longer be able to poison our community. This sentence reflects both the seriousness of his crime and his continued pattern of criminal behavior,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway.

Wright’s co-defendants previously entered guilty pleas and were sentenced as follows:

- Ashley Nicole Hughes, 36, of Fannin County, pled guilty to trafficking methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and tampering with evidence. She admitted to concealing and discarding a bag containing methamphetamine during the traffic stop. She was sentenced, as negotiated, on November 13, 2025, to 15 years to be served in confinement and ordered to pay a fine of \$200,000.
- James Lovejoy, 37, of Fannin County, pled guilty to trafficking methamphetamine and was sentenced, as negotiated, on January 7, 2026, as a recidivist offender to 30 years with the first 25 years to be served in confinement. He was also ordered to pay a fine of \$1 million.

The case was investigated by the Woodstock Police Department, with assistance from Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad. It was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Leland J. McElveen Jr., 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