



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing
Man Convicted of Raping Pre-Teen Girls Receives Two Consecutive Life Sentences
State vs. Reyes Hernandez-Macario

CANTON, GA (April 24, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that, on April 16, Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced Reyes Hernandez-Macario, 26, to two consecutive life sentences for raping two girls in separate forcible incidents in Canton and Woodstock. The defendant was known to both children, who were each under the age of 13.

On March 12, a Cherokee County jury found Hernandez-Macario guilty on all eight charges he faced at trial: two counts of rape, two counts of child molestation, two counts of false imprisonment, and two counts of cruelty to children in the first degree.

“These two assaults occurred within a short time of each other, in different locations, in a disturbingly similar manner,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, of the Special Victims Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “In both cases, the defendant isolated the victims, used force to overpower them, and relied on threats to keep them silent. The jury heard directly from these young victims and witnessed the lasting trauma they continue to carry.”

The Canton Police Department began investigating the first report of a rape in August 2023. At the time, Hernandez-Macario was a youth pastor at a Canton church and regularly transported children to weekly youth services in a church van. During a forensic interview, the child disclosed that after dropping off the other children, the defendant parked the van, locked the doors, and forcibly assaulted her. He then warned her not to tell anyone. Six months later, she disclosed the assault, and her family called 911.

In September 2023, the Woodstock Police Department began investigating a separate report of sexual abuse involving another child under the age of 13. In a forensic interview, the second child described a similar pattern of force and threats. She said that Hernandez-Macario assaulted her while alone with her in the living room of her family’s home, covering her mouth to prevent her from calling for help, holding her down, and threatening to harm her family if she disclosed the abuse. One year later, she disclosed the assault, and her family called 911.

“Delayed disclosure is very common in cases involving child victims,” Deputy Chief ADA Hines said. “Fear, confusion, and threats from the offender often prevent children from coming forward right away.”

On October 22, 2023, two days after law enforcement obtained an arrest warrant for Hernandez-Macario, he was apprehended at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. He had purchased a one-way ticket to Guatemala and was

attempting to board the flight. He was taken into custody and transported to the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center.

At sentencing, the State emphasized the defendant's attempt to flee the country, the threats he made to silence the victims, and the lasting trauma he inflicted on both children. The State recommended consecutive life sentences, which Judge Baker imposed.

"This defendant exploited positions of trust to gain access to children and used violence and intimidation to control them. He then made a cowardly attempt to flee the country once they came forward," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "These consecutive life sentences ensure he will never again be in a position to harm another child."

The cases were investigated by the Canton Police Department and the Woodstock Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines of the Special Victims Unit, assisted by Assistant District Attorney Pete Lamb.

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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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