



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Conviction **Man Found Guilty of All 18 Counts Involving Sex Crimes Against a Child** ***State vs. John David Elrod***

CANTON, GA (September 9, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on September 3 a Cherokee County jury convicted John David Elrod, 64, of all 18 charges he faced at trial. The defendant was found guilty of the following counts:

- Rape (2 counts)
- Aggravated child molestation (6 counts)
- Child molestation (8 counts)
- Cruelty to children in the first degree (2 counts)

Canton Police Department began investigating this case in August 2018 after a mother reported that her 9-year-old daughter told her she had been sexually abused by a family friend who had frequent contact with the child. The abuse took place over three years, from 2015 through 2018.

In a forensic interview, the child provided details of sexual abuse that began when she was 6 years old and occurred at two different homes in Cherokee County. These disclosures formed the basis for the indictment, which includes serious felony charges of rape and aggravated child molestation.

During the four-day trial, the State presented testimony from six witnesses, including a medical expert in child abuse, child advocacy experts, the victim, and two family members. The defendant testified in his own defense. The jury deliberated for just under an hour before reaching its verdict. Sentencing has not yet been set.

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The case was investigated by the Canton Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish of the Special Victims Unit.

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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