



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing **35 Years in Prison Ordered for Man Convicted of Attempted Rape on Overpass** *State vs. Sedric Charles Williams Jr.*

CANTON, GA (October 13, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on October 6 Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis sentenced Sedric Charles Williams, 33, to 40 years, with the first 35 years to serve in confinement and the remainder to serve on probation, for charges related to an attempted rape in the Acworth area of Cherokee County.

A Cherokee County jury convicted Williams on October 1 of one count of criminal attempt to commit rape and two counts of sexual battery.

These charges stem from an investigation conducted by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office. On August 1, 2024, a woman reported that she was assaulted by an unknown man on the overpass at Highway 92 and I-75 early that morning. The suspect left the scene before law enforcement arrived.

The victim told deputies that while she was walking from McDonald's to RaceTrac on Highway 92 near Acworth, a man approached her and asked if she wanted to have sex. When she refused, he followed her onto the overpass and assaulted her.

On August 2, 2024, a deputy located Williams in the Acworth area of Bartow County. While speaking with law enforcement, the defendant asked, 'Is this about the girl?' He also said, 'I just touched her back.'

"Those admissions, made before the defendant was even told that he was being charged with a crime, became key pieces of evidence supporting the victim's account," said Assistant District Attorney Rebecca N. Visockis, who co-prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. "In addition, a witness saw the defendant chasing the woman, video surveillance helped identify him at the scene, and DNA evidence further corroborated the victim's report."

During the investigation and prosecution, the State also became aware of an earlier sexual battery case involving Williams. This incident occurred in September 2023 in the city of Acworth, in Cobb County, less than one mile from the August 2024 incident. The victim in that case described circumstances similar to those reported in Cherokee County. Williams was charged and later pled guilty to sexual battery in that matter.

At trial, the State called nine witnesses to testify, including both the Cherokee County victim and the prior victim, providing the jury with evidence that the defendant had previously targeted another woman in a similar manner.

“This defendant testified that when he saw the victim early that morning he ‘got butterflies,’” said Assistant District Attorney Megan S. Hertel, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “But evidence at trial showed that the victim told him she was not interested and walked away. He responded by chasing her down and assaulting her. Women should be able to walk alone safely in Cherokee County and, with this verdict and sentence, that message is clear.”

At the sentencing hearing, the Defense argued for leniency, while the State recommended a sentence of 40 years, with the first 35 years to serve in confinement. Judge Davis sentenced Williams in accordance with the State’s recommendation. She also ordered Williams to have no contact with the named victims, and she barred Williams from Bartow, Cherokee, Cobb, and Paulding counties since the Acworth area includes all four counties.

“This defendant demonstrated a disturbing pattern of escalating violence, assaulting two victims within a year. We are grateful both women came forward and that our community is safer now that this defendant has been removed from the streets,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway.

The case was investigated by Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Megan S. Hertel and Assistant District Attorney Rebecca N. Visockis, 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.

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