OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, Cherokee County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Sentencing
Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Sex Crimes Involving Child Under 10 Years Old
State vs. Harold William Duvall

CANTON, GA (October 15, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on October 14 Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced Harold William Duvall, 71, of Canton, to life in prison after a jury found him guilty of multiple felony offenses, including aggravated sodomy, aggravated child molestation, and cruelty to children in the first degree.

Duvall was convicted of these charges on October 1 following a four-day jury trial.

Charges stem from a Woodstock Police Department investigation that began in June 2024 after a teenage boy disclosed that Duvall had forced him to engage in a sexual act in a Woodstock home when he was approximately five years old.

While investigating the Woodstock case, detectives uncovered similar accusations of child sexual abuse dating back to 1981 that involved other children who were related to or in close contact with Duvall. These acts occurred in areas outside of Cherokee County.

The identified similar victims testified during this trial, providing corroborating evidence.

In their testimony, the Cherokee County victim and similar victims described patterns of abuse and statements made by the defendant that were consistent over many years.

“Harold Duvall has been molesting children for decades. This case is a reminder that delayed disclosure does not diminish the truth, and that no matter how much time has passed, we will continue to pursue justice for victims of child sexual abuse,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State.

At the sentencing hearing, the State recommended a sentence of life in prison. The Defense recommended 25 years to serve in prison followed by life on probation, which is the minimum sentence required by Georgia law. Judge Baker sentenced as the State recommended, ordering that Duvall serve a life sentence in prison.

“The passage of time does not erase the harm and will not shield offenders from accountability in Cherokee County,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “This sentence ensures that Harold Duvall will never again

have the opportunity to harm a child, and it reinforces our commitment to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our community."

The case was investigated by the Woodstock Police Department and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel M. Hines of the Special Victims Unit, with the assistance of Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper, 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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