

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Cherokee County Man Sentenced to 20 Years, 4 to Serve,
for Possession of Child Pornography
State vs. Robert Anthony Cunningham**

June 20, 2019 – Ball Ground resident Robert Anthony Cunningham, 49, was sentenced on June 20 on one count of sexual exploitation of children after a Cherokee County jury found Cunningham guilty of possessing child pornography.

During the trial, the District Attorney's Office presented evidence of pornographic material containing images of children found on devices in the rural home Cunningham shared with his elderly parents.

Assistant District Attorney Robert Fickett, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State, recommended a sentence of 20 years to serve the first 10 years in confinement in the state penal system.

After hearing arguments from both the State and the Defense, Senior Judge Frank C. Mills, III, sentenced Cunningham to 20 years with the first 4 years to serve in confinement in the state penal system. The defendant will also be required to register as a sex offender and adhere to all sex offender special conditions of probation once he is released from prison.

"After receiving a cyber-tip, the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit of the Cherokee Sheriff's Office initiated an investigation of this defendant, which ultimately led to his arrest," said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. "We are committed to prosecuting individuals who possess and disseminate child pornography in Cherokee County. We simply will not tolerate individuals who harm and prey on our most vulnerable, our children."

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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