

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 Life with 25 Years to Serve,
for Sexual Abuse of Two Girls
State vs. Lammie Leonard Thurmond III**

July 31, 2019 – Lammie Leonard Thurmond III, 67, was sentenced on July 19 for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old relative and her 13-year-old friend in Free Home. The defendant entered a guilty plea to two counts of aggravated child molestation, one count of incest, two counts of child molestation, and two counts of aggravated sexual battery.

Mr. Thurmond was arrested after sexually assaulting both girls during a sleepover in April of 2018. He admitted to sexually assaulting and molesting the first girl beginning in 2010 when she was just 4 years of age.

During the sentencing hearing, the first victim said this traumatic experience has motivated her to pursue a career in law enforcement so she can help other crime victims. She thanked her friend for having the courage to come forward.

“I’m so happy [my friend] had the guts I didn’t have to say something to her mom because now I finally get the justice I deserve, and you can’t hurt anybody else in jail,” she said, addressing Mr. Thurmond at the hearing.

During the hearing, Judge Ellen McElyea praised the child and said that she and her mother were an inspiration.

“Had it not been for the child’s friend coming forward, Mr. Thurmond might still be terrorizing children,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Holly Varner, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State.

Judge McElyea sentenced Thurmond to a life sentence with 25 years to serve in prison on each count of aggravated child molestation, 25 years to serve on the incest, 20 years to serve on each count of child molestation, and life with 25 years to serve on each count of aggravated sexual battery. All of these counts will run concurrently for a total sentence of life with the first 25 years to be served incarcerated in the State Penal System. Upon completion of his 25 mandatory years in prison, the defendant will be 92 years old.

“Lammie Thurmond was a predator who molested innocent girls in his own home. This lengthy sentence prevents him from preying on any child ever again,” said Cherokee County District Attorney Shannon Wallace.

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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