

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 8 years in prison for family violence
State vs. David Alexander Sleight

August 25, 2022 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that on August 15, 2022, Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced David Alexander Sleight, 69, to eight years to serve in prison for aggravated assault, violating a family violence order, false imprisonment, and family violence battery. Sleight entered a non-negotiated guilty plea to these charges on April 28, 2022.

Charges stem from two separate incidents involving the defendant's girlfriend. In the first incident, which occurred in a Holly Springs home on August 26, 2020, Sleight struck, kicked, and grabbed his girlfriend. Holly Springs Police investigated and arrested Sleight, who had fled the scene. Sleight was later released on bond, with special conditions stipulating no contact with the victim.

In violation of these bond conditions and a separate family violence order, Sleight again was in contact with the victim. On February 19, 2021, he became verbally abusive then assaulted his girlfriend at her workplace in Canton. During the assault, he placed his hands on his girlfriend's neck and applied pressure, in a strangulation attempt, then fled. Cherokee Sheriff's Office responded to the scene, arresting Sleight a short time later.

"Mr. Sleight is a skilled manipulator who attempts to explain his way out of abusive behavior. It is this kind of manipulation that makes victims afraid to come forward because they think no one will believe them," said Assistant District Attorney Alana Driscoll, of the Domestic Violence Unit, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State. "During the sentencing hearing, he even claimed that the victim was just a friend and he has a loving wife living back in New Jersey."

The victim, who knew the defendant during high school, began dating Sleight a few years ago, and the two had previously shared a home.

During the hearing, ADA Driscoll read a statement written by the victim, who said she wished she had the courage to read it herself. In the statement, she describes verbal and physical abuse she endured at the hands of the defendant, as well as her fear that he will someday kill her when he is released from prison.

"I just pray that I die from natural causes and not at the hands of you, Dave," she said.

For the protection of the victim, Judge Baker issued a permanent restraining order when he is released from prison.

“The victim in this case showed tremendous courage in ending this abusive relationship, taking steps to heal from the physical and emotional scars, and making sure that her abuser is held accountable for his actions,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace.

The Holly Springs Police Department and Cherokee Sheriff’s Office investigated this case, which was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alana Driscoll, of the Domestic Violence Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence typically follows a pattern, with tension building, followed by a major act of violence, a calm period, and then cycling back to tension building. As time passes, the violent episodes often get more serious and may lead to a lethal act.

Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence even though injuries may appear to be mild or victims may have no visible marks. According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, strangulation is the ultimate form of power and control in which the batterer asserts control over the victim’s next breath. Odds for homicide increase substantially (750%) for victims who have been previously strangled.

If you or someone you know is impacted by domestic violence, please contact the Cherokee Family Violence Center, CFVC.org, 770-479-1703 (24/7 crisis hotline). In case of an emergency, call 911.

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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