

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Holly Springs man admits to beating girlfriend, sentenced to 20 years with the first 10 years to serve in prison
State vs. Jason Allyn Axtell

December 7, 2022 – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that on August 23, 2022, Jason Allyn Axtell, 49, formerly of California, entered a non-negotiated guilty plea to two counts of family violence aggravated assault, false imprisonment, criminal trespass, and other charges related to the beating of his girlfriend.

Charges stem from a family violence incident that occurred on December 5, 2021, in the Holly Springs home that Axtell shared with his girlfriend, who is a survivor of a traumatic brain injury incurred during a car accident many years prior.

The abuse started while the victim was driving the two of them home to Holly Springs. During the drive, Axtell verbally argued with her and hit her multiple times on the right side of her face.

After the two entered the home, Axtell became more violent. He sat on top of the victim, then grabbed her throat and applied enough pressure that she had difficulty breathing. He struck her on both sides of her head, on her face, and on other parts of her body. He then dragged her by her hair around the house, ripping clumps of hair out. He threatened her with a kitchen knife and told her he would kill her if she called her father or the police.

“This victim endured unimaginable terror in her own home by a man who purported to care for her. His assault on her was relentless and continued through the night. More than once during this assault, the defendant threatened to kill her and she thought she was going to die. After hours of abuse, he became so intoxicated that she was able to get away from him by locking herself in her bedroom, where she bravely called for help,” said Assistant District Attorney Elliot Stone, of the Domestic Violence Unit, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State.

Superior Court Chief Judge Ellen McElyea sentenced Axtell to 20 years with the first 10 years to be served in prison and the remainder to be served on probation. When Axtell is released from prison, he must adhere to conditions of probation, which include having no contact with the victim or her family, undergoing a substance abuse evaluation and treatment, and remaining outside of Cherokee County, from which he is banned.

“Jason Axtell targeted a vulnerable individual, abused and intimidated her, threatened to cause more brain damage to her, and told her no one would believe her if she called the police,” said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. “In the end, the victim showed amazing strength in calling for help, providing details of the attack to law enforcement, and participating in the prosecution of this case. With time and support, our hope is that she fully recovers from the physical and emotional injuries he inflicted on her.”

This case was investigated by the Holly Springs Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Elliot Stone, 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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