

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canton Man Found Guilty of 5 Counts of Sexual Exploitation of Children
State vs. Chas McKinley Bryan

July 12, 2023 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Chas McKinley Bryan, 31, was convicted on June 30, 2023, of five counts of sexual exploitation of children following a bench trial before Superior Court Judge David Cannon Jr.

In March 2019, law enforcement first became aware that child pornography was being downloaded to a Cherokee County residence, where Bryan was the sole occupant. On May 2, 2019, Cherokee Sheriff’s Office deputies conducted a search warrant of the home and removed digital devices, which contained multiple images of children being sexually abused.

“Each time an image or video of a child being sexually assaulted is viewed, downloaded, or distributed, that child is victimized again. The children depicted in this abusive imagery may be nameless strangers on the internet, but their innocence is deserving of protection,” said Assistant District Attorney Rachel Clark, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State.

During the trial, the District Attorney’s Office presented evidence of images and videos found in the defendant’s possession, which included children as young as toddlers. Judge Cannon found the defendant guilty of 5 of the 6 counts of sexual exploitation of children. Sentencing will take place at a later date.

“We are thankful for the dedicated Cherokee Sheriff’s Office investigators who work tirelessly to keep a watchful eye on the dark side of the internet to protect vulnerable victims,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Through these diligent efforts, the defendant has been brought to justice and his abhorrent behavior has been stopped.”

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Rachel Clark and Assistant District Attorney Meaghan Frankish, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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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