

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SUSAN K. TREADAWAY
District Attorney

Cherokee County Justice Center
90 North Street, Suite 390
Canton, GA 30114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cyndi Crossland
Public Information Officer
cbcrossland@cherokeega.com
770-479-1488

20 years in prison without parole for Canton man guilty of sex crimes with a young child
State vs. Jonathan Ricky Millwood

December 6, 2023 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on November 28, 2023, Jonathan Ricky Millwood, 37, of Canton, Cherokee County, pled guilty to two counts of aggravated sexual battery, one count of aggravated child molestation, and one count of child molestation.

In March 2023, Canton Police Department began investigating allegations of sexual abuse after a girl under the age of 10 told her mother that Millwood had touched her inappropriately the day before.

During the investigation of these allegations, the victim participated in two forensic interviews at the Anna Crawford Childrens Center, where she provided details of acts that included inappropriate touching and digital penetration of her vagina and anus. The child also underwent a Sexual Assault Nurse Exam (SANE). The GBI Crime Lab later confirmed that male DNA was present on the child.

“This defendant did unspeakable things to an innocent child. He likely expected the child would be too scared or confused to disclose the abuse, but instead the very next day she told her mother who immediately went to law enforcement,” said Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “This young girl showed incredible courage and bravery by coming forward. This sentence ensures that the defendant will remain incarcerated for every day of the next two decades as a result of his conviction on these charges, preventing him from preying on other victims.”

During the plea hearing, the child’s mother delivered a victim impact statement in which she described panic attacks and sleepless nights her daughter suffered in the months following the sexual abuse. The mother also expressed relief that the plea outcome would spare her child additional trauma from testifying about the acts in the presence of her abuser.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Millwood was sentenced to 20 years in prison without the possibility of parole, followed by life on probation. He will be required to register as a sex offender for life and is forbidden to have contact of any kind with the victim or her family.

“While there is no sentence that could ever heal the trauma endured by this precious child, we are hopeful that the outcome in this case can provide some closure that will allow the journey of healing to begin,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “We are thankful that this victim will be surrounded by the support of her mother and other family members as she begins to take the first steps on that journey that will inevitably last a lifetime.”

This case was investigated by the Canton Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope, Special Victims Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

Sexual Abuse of Children

Child abusers often engage in a grooming process that allows them to perpetrate sexual abuse undetected. “Grooming” in the context of child sexual abuse is a manipulative process intended to secure the child’s silence. Common characteristics of the grooming process include targeting the child, gaining the child and caregiver’s trust, filling a need, using flattery and gifts, isolating the child, sexualizing the relationship, and maintaining control.

Children who have been groomed are often conflicted about their feelings for the abuser because he/she has methodically established a positive relationship with the child prior to introducing sexual touches. Children who have been groomed are also more likely to conceal the abuse and delay disclosing the abuse to others.

To report suspected child abuse, call Child Protective Services at 855-422-4453. If the child is in immediate danger, 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.

###