

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Following Guilty Verdict, Waleska Man Sentenced to Serve 20 Years in Prison
State vs. Bradley Scott McDaniel

January 22, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on Friday, January 19, 2024, Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace sentenced Bradley Scott McDaniel, 36, of Waleska, to 30 years plus an additional 60 months, with the first 20 years to serve in prison.

Following a three-day trial that ended on December 6, 2023, a Cherokee County jury found McDaniel guilty of family violence aggravated assault, false imprisonment, family violence battery (3 counts), cruelty to children in the third degree (2 counts), and simple battery.

“This is a case about breaking free – from a horrendous living situation, from a cycle of violence, and from a final terrifying attack involving strangulation,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe of the Domestic Violence Unit. “This defendant preyed upon a vulnerable young woman who was pregnant and essentially homeless when she met him. She had no phone or vehicle, and no way to escape from this man’s relentless abuse.”

On the evening on February 13, 2023, McDaniel became angry and physically abusive, strangling his girlfriend to the point where she was unable to breathe. She tried to escape but he grabbed her and forced her back into a camper on his property. She broke free a second time and this time was able to run away to find someone to help her.

The Cherokee Sheriff’s Office responded to a 911 call made from a neighboring property. While interviewing the woman, deputies saw visible red marks on her neck and under her chin, as well as older injuries, including a black eye and bruises on her arms.

The victim told law enforcement that McDaniel grabbed her by the neck with both his hands and applied pressure. She said she thought she was going to lose consciousness. She said that McDaniel also held her against her will. An infant child was present during the incident. When deputies went to McDaniel’s residence to investigate, he had fled the property. He remained on the run for nearly a week and was apprehended on February 19, 2023.

While in the Cherokee County adult detention center awaiting trial, McDaniel was charged with two counts of influencing a witness, for offering bribes to the victim to try to convince her to change her testimony. He also pled guilty to those charges at the sentencing hearing on January 19.

During the January 19 hearing, the State presented evidence that McDaniel is a recidivist offender with at least five prior felony convictions. The State recommended a sentence of 30 years with the first 20 years to be served in custody.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Wallace sentenced McDaniel to 30 years plus an additional 60 months, with the first 20 years to be served in custody. As a recidivist offender, he must serve all 20 years in prison. He is also forbidden to have any contact with the victim.

“Throughout this relationship, the defendant used manipulation and control, coercion, threats, and physical violence to get his way. Then, when 911 was called, he ran away from law enforcement. After he was arrested, he tried to bribe his ex-girlfriend to change her testimony. He refused to be accountable for his own actions,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “The young woman in this case is a true survivor, a strong woman who rose above this horrific incident to break free from the clutches of abuse.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Ashe, 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. This pattern of abuse is often referred to as the “Cycle of Violence.” According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. Odds for homicide increase substantially 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.

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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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