

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Conviction
Guilty Verdict for Cherokee County Man Accused of Murdering His Wife
State vs. Charles Terry Collins

January 29, 2024 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that, at the conclusion of a six-day jury trial, Charles Terry Collins, 71, was found guilty of all charges, specifically malice murder, felony murder, family violence aggravated assault, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony. Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace said that sentencing would occur later this week.

The defendant was charged with these crimes after a Cherokee Sheriff's Office investigation of a shooting that occurred at approximately 2:10 a.m. on July 24, 2023, at a home off New Light Road in Canton. When CSO deputies arrived at the home, they found Collins holding a Smith & Wesson .38 special revolver and his deceased wife, Deborah Sherry Collins, 63, lying on the floor, with a gunshot wound to the neck.

Collins admitted to shooting his wife but claimed his actions were in self-defense. He told law enforcement that he shot Deborah because she had threatened him with a knife. Afterwards, he rendered no aid and did not call 911. Evidence at the scene indicated that Deborah was not holding a knife at the time of her murder.

During the trial, a total of 21 witnesses testified (15 for the State and six for the Defense). The State also presented more than 300 exhibits as evidence, including 911 recordings, crime scene photos, and physical evidence.

The jury deliberated for less than three hours before finding the defendant guilty of all charges.

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, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Elliott Stone, of the Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

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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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