



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Notice of Verdict & Sentencing
Woodstock Man Sentenced to Life Plus 60 Years, Following Jury Conviction for Child Sex Crimes
State vs. Nicholas Scott Wrightsman

CANTON, GA (April 30, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on April 28, Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis sentenced Nicholas Scott Wrightsman, 47, of Woodstock, to life plus 60 years in prison after a Cherokee County jury found him guilty on April 25 of aggravated child molestation (1 count), aggravated sexual battery (1 count), and child molestation (9 counts).

The Cherokee Sheriff’s Office began investigating the case in 2020. As part of the investigation, three children participated in separate forensic interviews, during which they disclosed sexual abuse that began when they were all around six years old. The girls were in their early teens at the time of disclosure. All were known to the defendant, who they called “Uncle Nick.”

During the four-day trial, 11 State witnesses testified, including the girls, their mothers, and child abuse experts. Trial evidence showed that Wrightsman used his close relationship with the parents to gain access to their children. The parents trusted him completely, allowing sleepovers at his home near Lake Allatoona and believing his attention and generosity were sincere kindness.

“Wrightsmen presented himself as a trusted family friend who cared about these girls and provided them with gifts their family could not afford,” said Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope, Special Victims Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “He was masterful at not only grooming the girls but also manipulating the parents. In my career as a prosecutor, I have never seen families manipulated as deeply as these.”

At trial, the girls testified that the abuse began with seemingly innocent touching, often presented as games, tickling, or cuddling in bed during sleepovers. Child abuse experts describe this behavior as “grooming,” which is used by offenders to desensitize children to sexual contact.

The abuse escalated in the summer of 2020 when Wrightsman engaged in aggravated sexual acts with one of the girls, who was 14 years old at the time, leading to the charges of aggravated child molestation and aggravated sexual battery. The fear and trauma of that incident gave her the courage to disclose, which led to the investigation and prosecution of this case.

Wrightsmen testified at trial, denying the allegations and claiming the children were not telling the truth.

At sentencing, the court heard four victim impact statements. Describing years of manipulation, one of the girls said, “Over that time, I was manipulated, controlled, and taken advantage of by someone I trusted deeply, someone

I loved and believed would protect me.” Another child victim said that the abuse “changed how I think, how I trust, how I feel in my own body, and how safe I feel in the world.”

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Davis said that children have a right to be heard, supported, and protected, and that adults in positions of trust must uphold that responsibility at all times. She then sentenced Wrightsman to life plus 60 years.

“These young girls showed extraordinary courage in coming forward and telling the truth about what this defendant did to them,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Their bravery made this outcome possible, and this sentence ensures he will never have access to another child.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope of the Special Victims Unit.

INFORMATION ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

Child abusers often engage in a grooming process that enables them to commit abuse undetected. Common grooming behaviors include:

- Targeting a vulnerable child
- Gaining the trust of the child and caregiver
- Providing attention, gifts, or affection to fill a need
- Isolating the child from others
- Gradually sexualizing the relationship
- Using threats, fear, or guilt to maintain control

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