



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Man Pleads Guilty to Sexual Abuse of Girlfriend’s Daughter;
Sentenced to 25 Years Followed by Life on Probation with Sex Offender Special Conditions
State vs. Chase Taylor Doughty**

CANTON, GA (May 5, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on April 16 Chase Taylor Doughty, 35, pled guilty to multiple sex crimes involving a child and was sentenced to 25 years in prison followed by life on probation.

At the hearing, the defendant admitted to all eight counts he faced: aggravated child molestation, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery (two counts), child molestation (two counts), cruelty to children in the first degree, and trafficking of persons for sexual servitude.

The Cherokee Sheriff’s Office began investigating this case in January 2025 after a 14-year-old girl disclosed the abuse. In a forensic interview, she reported the sexual abuse began when she was about six years old at a home outside Cherokee County, then continued for years, occurring two to three times a week at a residence in Ball Ground. She provided specific details of acts that were charged in the indictment.

“This defendant exploited a very young child’s trust, by telling her he did these things to her because he loved her, and even giving her money to gain her compliance,” said Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines of the Special Victims Unit. “She continues to suffer from the emotional and mental toll of what he did, yet over time, she found the strength to speak up and bring his crimes to light.”

During the plea hearing, the victim was accompanied by Service Dog Parker, of the District Attorney’s Office, who provided helpful distraction and emotional support.

Superior Court Judge Tony Baker sentenced Doughty, as negotiated, to 25 years to serve in prison, followed by life on probation with sex offender special conditions, including sex offender registration and no contact of any kind with anyone under the age of 18. He was also ordered no contact with the named victims.

“When this child disclosed her abuse to a therapist, she finally received the help and protection she deserved,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “Thanks to her courage, her mother’s support, a swift investigation by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office, and a strong prosecution, this defendant will never again be in a position to harm a child.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines of the Special Victims Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

Information About 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.

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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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