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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canton Woman Pleads Guilty to Murder of Two-Year-Old Child State vs. Phillissa Diallo

CANTON, GA (May 18, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on May 11 Chief Superior Court Judge David L. Cannon Jr. sentenced Phillissa Diallo, 44, of Canton, to 37 years, with the first 21 years to serve in prison, after she entered a non-negotiated guilty plea to all charges she faced in the 2022 murder of two-year-old Alyssa Rose Davis.

Diallo pled guilty to murder in the second degree, cruelty to children in the second degree, and concealing the death of another.

The Canton Police Department began investigating the case on December 14, 2022, after Diallo walked into the police department to report a deceased child in her apartment on Hearthstone Landing Drive. When officers searched the apartment, they found the child's mutilated remains inside a plastic storage bin containing a salt substance, hidden beneath other items in a closet. Diallo did not provide further information to police.

An autopsy determined the child died from lethal amounts of acetaminophen and diphenhydramine. The date of death could not be determined. Alyssa was last known to be alive on December 8; her body was found six days later.

The child had been in Diallo's continuous care for more than two weeks. Ring video collected by police suggested Diallo had left the child alone in the apartment for extended periods of time. The mother had been in regular contact with Diallo and was unaware of the child's death until she was notified by law enforcement.

While the investigation confirmed Diallo was the only person present with the child in the days before and after her death, the evidence was insufficient to establish a charge of malice murder under Georgia law.

At the plea hearing, Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines, of the Special Victim's Unit, stated that during the prosecution of the case the defendant admitted that Alyssa was alive when she found her. Calling 911 or seeking help may have saved the child's life. Hines also argued that Diallo's reported history of anxiety and depression did not explain or justify her cruel and deliberate actions.

"Instead of taking steps to preserve the child's health and well-being, the defendant demonstrated willful neglect. She then took gruesome, unimaginable steps to conceal her death," said Deputy Chief ADA Rachel Hines. "Alyssa was not treated with the protection and dignity owed to every child, and that reality will haunt everyone involved in this case."

Among the evidence the State introduced were the plastic storage bin where the remains were found, Ring video footage of Diallo bringing bleach into the home, and crime scene photographs with Blue Star images showing areas where blood had been cleaned.

The Defense presented an independent expert who claimed the defendant was delusional. A Georgia Department of Behavioral Health expert testified that Diallo was not experiencing delusional thoughts at the time of the incident.

The victim's mother delivered an emotional impact statement, telling the court she was "robbed" when Alyssa was taken from her, that her other children miss their sister deeply, and that their family will never be the same.

The State recommended a sentence of 40 years to serve in prison, which is the maximum allowed by Georgia law. The Defense asked for leniency in sentencing.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Cannon sentenced Diallo to 37 years, with the first 21 years to be served in prison. He also ordered Diallo to have no contact of any kind with the victim's family.

The case was investigated by the Canton Police Department and prosecuted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rachel Hines of the Special Victims Unit, 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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