

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SUSAN K. TREADAWAY
District Attorney

Cherokee County Justice Center
90 North Street, Suite 390
Canton, GA 30114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gainesville Man Sentenced to 25 Years for Meeting a Child for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation
State vs. Michael Dennis Shumaker

November 14, 2025 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Michael Dennis Shumaker, 32, of Gainesville, pled guilty on October 20 to aggravated child molestation, enticing a child for indecent purposes, statutory rape, and two counts of sexual exploitation of children.

Chief Superior Court Judge David L. Cannon Jr. sentenced Shumaker, as negotiated, to 25 years to be served in prison without the possibility of parole, followed by life on probation with sex offender special conditions. He is also prohibited from contact of any kind with the victim.

Charges stem from a case investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office. In August 2023, Shumaker met a 14-year-old on the social media platform Tumblr. After communicating with the child online, Shumaker traveled to Cherokee County, took the child to the Woodstock Microtel Inn, and sexually assaulted her.

The child later provided detailed accounts of the assault during a forensic interview at the Anna Crawford Children's Center. The Cherokee Sheriff's Office collected additional evidence, including hotel records, photos, and videos that corroborated the child's disclosure.

"This defendant knew this child's age and specifically targeted her because she was vulnerable," said Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope of the Special Victims Unit. "The trauma inflicted on this child is profound and will stay with her for a lifetime."

At the plea hearing, ADA Pope read an impact statement from the child's parents, describing how the assault affected their daughter's happiness and well-being. "She still struggles to deal with this trauma, and while we are hopeful that she will improve, it may impact the rest of her life," the statement read.

"With this sentence, our community is safer, and a young victim can begin to heal knowing that justice has been served," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "We are grateful to the Cherokee Sheriff's Office, the FBI, and the Anna Crawford Children's Center for their diligent work in uncovering the truth, supporting the victim, and helping to ensure this perpetrator is removed from our streets."

This case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the FBI. Prosecution was handled by Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope of the Special Victims Unit. The Anna Crawford Children's Center conducted the forensic interview.

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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.

CONTACT:

Cyndi Crossland

Public Information Officer

cbcrossland@cherokeega.com

770-479-1488