

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

Notice of Conviction

Cherokee County Jury Finds Man Guilty of Rape, Aggravated Sexual Assault, and Other Charges
State vs. Michael Clay Downey

November 21, 2025 – Cherokee County District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that Michael Clay Downey, 40, of Canton, was found guilty on November 21 of two counts of rape, two counts of incest, three counts of aggravated sexual battery, and two counts of child molestation.

Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace said that sentencing would be set for a later date.

Charges stem from a Cherokee Sheriff's Office investigation that began in September 2024 after a child under the age of 12 disclosed sexual abuse. The defendant, who was known to the child, committed the acts in a home in Canton.

Following the disclosure, the child participated in a forensic interview in which she provided details of multiple incidents that occurred over the course of months.

During the five-day trial, the State called 18 witnesses to testify, including the victim, family members, law enforcement officers, and multiple experts on child sexual abuse. The State also introduced 72 exhibits into evidence.

The jury deliberated for less than an hour before finding the defendant guilty of all charges.

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff's Office. Prosecution was handled by Assistant District Attorney David J. Bailey, of the Special Victims Unit, with the assistance of Chief Assistant District Attorney Katie Gropper, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

###

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