



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway  
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, Cherokee County  
90 North Street, Canton GA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Notice of Sentencing**  
**Canton Man to Serve Three Life Sentences Plus 25 Years After Conviction for Child Sex Crimes**  
*State vs. Monquezias Deshad Watts*

March 27, 2026 – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on March 26 Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis sentenced Monquezias Deshad Watts, 33, of Canton, to three consecutive life sentences plus 25 years in prison.

The sentencing hearing took place one week after a Cherokee County jury found Watts guilty of 10 felony charges involving sexual abuse of girls under the age of 16. Watts was convicted of four counts of rape, five counts of child molestation, and one count of aggravated sexual battery. He was acquitted of three additional counts.

The Canton Police Department began investigating this case in April 2021 after a 14-year-old girl disclosed that Watts had sexually assaulted her. As the District Attorney’s Office was preparing the case for trial, additional victims were identified. The abuse spanned over the course of several years. Watts was known to the victims.

At trial, jurors heard testimony from 28 witnesses, including five named victims, law enforcement officers, and child abuse experts. Three young women, who were under the age of 16 at the time of the offenses, testified that Watts assaulted them while they were sleeping or impaired by drugs or alcohol. Additional women testified as similar transaction witnesses, describing assaults that reflected a consistent pattern of behavior by the defendant.

“Evidence presented at trial showed that this man has been acting with impunity for years. Victim after victim took the stand and told the same story of being victimized while they were high, drunk, or asleep. This defendant preyed upon vulnerable girls he thought would never tell, or never be believed,” said Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. “What is done in darkness always comes to light.”

During the sentencing hearing, ADA Pope read a victim impact statement from one of the victims, who was 13 when Watts assaulted her.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Superior Court Judge Jennifer L. Davis sentenced the defendant to three consecutive life sentences plus 25 years in prison.

“This sentence delivers long-awaited justice for these young women,” said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. “The defendant counted on these girls remaining silent or on others failing to believe them. He underestimated them, and he underestimated this community. With this verdict and sentence, he has been fully and appropriately held accountable.”

The case was investigated by the Canton Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Assistant District Attorney Leyna Pope of the Special Victims Unit, assisted by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Geoffrey Fogus.

## **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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