



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acworth Man to Serve 20 Years in Prison for Kidnapping, False Imprisonment, and Other Charges *State vs. Victor Manuel Duarte Arias*

CANTON, GA (June 5, 2026) – District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway announces that on May 8 Superior Court Judge Shannon Wallace sentenced Victor Manuel Duarte Arias, 31, to 30 years, with 20 years to serve in prison, after he entered a non-negotiated guilty plea for 12 charges stemming from a domestic violence assault.

Duarte Arias, of the Acworth area of Cherokee County, pled guilty to kidnapping, family violence aggravated battery (2 counts), family violence aggravated assault (4 counts), false imprisonment (3 counts), family violence battery, and cruelty to children in the third degree.

The Cherokee Sheriff's Office began investigating this case on August 11, 2025, after a 911 caller reported a physical altercation between a man and a woman who lived together in an apartment near Bells Ferry Road in Cherokee County. While speaking to a dispatcher, the caller said the woman may have stabbed the man.

However, when deputies arrived at the apartment, they found an uninjured man, later identified as Duarte Arias, and a woman with multiple visible injuries. The woman told deputies that Duarte Arias had, over a period of three days, strangled her, bit her, punched her, and forced her back into the apartment when she tried to escape.

The woman's injuries included bite marks to her forehead, subconjunctival hemorrhages in the eyes and petechiae and enlarged vessels in the mouth (consistent with strangulation), bruised gums, and swelling of her right foot and ankle. She was transported to the hospital, where doctors determined that her foot was fractured.

As part of the investigation, detectives ordered a strangulation assessment for the woman and forensic interviews of the children in the home. One child was present during the assault, and another had witnessed prior acts of domestic violence.

"The investigation revealed a pattern of escalating abuse designed to isolate and control the victim," said Assistant District Attorney Ashley Snow, of the Domestic Violence Unit, who prosecuted this case on behalf of the State. "When the victim decided to end the relationship over the defendant's repeated infidelity, he used violence in an attempt to intimidate and force her to stay in the relationship."

After the non-negotiated plea, Judge Wallace sentenced Duarte Arias to 30 years, with the first 20 years to serve in prison, followed by probation. She also ordered him to pay restitution and have no contact with the named victims.

"The victim in this case endured ongoing abuse before receiving the help she needed," said District Attorney Susan K. Treadaway. "Particularly troubling were the acts of strangulation, which are among the strongest indicators that

domestic violence may become lethal. This sentence holds the defendant accountable for his actions, protects the victim from further harm, and sends a clear message that this type of violence will not be tolerated.”

The case was investigated by the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ashley Snow of the Domestic Violence Unit, Office of the District Attorney, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit.

Information About Domestic Violence

Domestic violence typically follows a pattern, with tension building, followed by a major act of violence, a calm period, and then cycling back to tension building. As time passes, the violent episodes often get more serious and may lead to a lethal act. According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. Odds for homicide increase substantially for victims who have been previously strangled.

If you or someone you know is impacted by domestic violence, please contact the Cherokee Family Violence Center, CFVC.org, 770-479-1703 (24/7 crisis hotline). In case of an emergency, 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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