



*Douglas County  
District Attorney*  
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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 22, 2022

**Contact:** Douglas County District Attorney's Office  
(770)920-7292

### **Man Convicted of Aggravated Child Molestation**

Following a week-long trial, a Douglas County jury returned a verdict convicting thirty-nine-year-old Abraham Hardy of multiple counts of aggravated child molestation, enticing a child for indecent purposes, child molestation, and statutory rape. The prosecution team was led by Senior Assistant District Attorney Brook Demeke and Assistant District Attorney Nelly Ndounteng. Douglas County Chief Superior Court Judge William "Beau" McClain presided over the matter.

The accusations against Hardy came to light in March 2019, when the victim, a juvenile, told her medical provider that she had been abused and sexually assaulted by Hardy when she lived in Douglasville. Hardy was a family friend and had known the victim since her birth. Hardy used his access and relationship with the child to groom her and ultimately abuse her for a number of years going as far back as 2015. In a forensic interview, the victim gave more details and reported numerous acts of degrading and humiliating sexual abuse by Hardy. The victim described various objects being used on her during the abuse.

Law enforcement investigated the matter, interviewed witnesses, and searched Hardy's home in South Carolina where they recovered many of the objects that the victim described. The victim's statements were further corroborated by family members and other witnesses along with detailed descriptions of Hardy's anatomy and piercings.

Hardy had meticulously planned and prepared the victim for this abuse, and he used his relationship with her to manipulate her into thinking that they had a special relationship. It was only after the victim moved away and received counseling that she understood Hardy's manipulation of her, and she gained the strength to disclose the horrible abuse she had endured.

"The depravity of the defendant's actions can't be fully described here. But in the face of that depravity, the victim stood up and ultimately showed incredible strength and resilience. The jury's verdict ensures that the defendant is held accountable and that he will be placed where he can no longer harm anyone," said District Attorney Dalia Racine.

After hearing all the evidence and testimony, the jury swiftly returned a verdict convicting on all counts. Sentencing will be at a later date. Hardy is facing a maximum time of life in prison.