



*Douglas County
District Attorney*
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**PRESS RELEASE
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Man Convicted of Human Trafficking, Rape, and Child Molestation

Following a week-long trial, a Douglas County jury returned a verdict convicting thirty-five-year-old Carlos Betancourt of child molestation, statutory rape, and human trafficking. The prosecution team was led by Assistant District Attorney Victoria Hicks and investigated by Douglas County Sheriff's Office and Douglasville Police Department. Superior Court Judge Cynthia Adams presided over the matter.

On November 4, 2020, the 13-year-old victim ran away from her mother's home in Cobb County. While walking around the Six Flags Park she was encountered by Carlos Betancourt who offered the victim a ride. Betancourt then took the victim to a home in Douglas County where he had sexual intercourse with the minor victim multiple times. Afterward, he sent text messages to another adult male offering to allow him to have sexual intercourse with the minor victim in exchange for drugs.

Shortly thereafter, the male picked up the minor victim and kept her at his home for nearly three months. In January 2021, the minor victim was able to leave the man's home, contact her mother, and be reunited with her family. Her mother immediately contacted law enforcement and they began investigating the case.

It was determined that the homes where the victim was taken were in Douglas County. The victim described Betancourt to law enforcement by giving them his first name, describing the distinguishable tattoo on his face, and that Betancourt was on probation. Based on this information, law enforcement was able to identify Carlos Betancourt as a suspect. A search warrant was conducted of his home and his cell phone records were obtained. Evidence found during the investigation corroborated the victim's statements. Betancourt was arrested by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in February, 2021.

Douglas County District Attorney Dalia Racine stated, "The idea of grown men preying on our children and manipulating and abusing them for their own gain and satisfaction is intolerable. No community is immune from sex trafficking. As a focus of my prosecution career, I am especially proud of our team and law enforcement partners for their work in recognizing and attacking this issue. We will continue to aggressively go after those that cause our children and our community harm. I can only hope that this conviction, along with community resources, can help the victim continue to heal from this unimaginable abuse."

After hearing all the evidence and testimony, the jury convicted Betancourt on child molestation, statutory rape, and human trafficking. Betancourt is facing a maximum punishment of two life sentences plus 20 years. The court will sentence Betancourt at a later date.