



*Douglas County
District Attorney*
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Man Convicted of Child Molestation and Sexual Battery of a Minor

Following a week-long trial that began on September 19th, a Douglas County jury returned a verdict convicting eighty-one-year-old Jack Holley, Jr. of child molestation and sexual battery of a minor. The prosecution team was led by Assistant District Attorneys Madeline Ross and Victoria Hicks and investigated by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Senior Judge Mary Staley Clark presided over the matter.

The case began in January 2020 when the Athens-Clark County Police were called to investigate a report of child neglect. In the course of their investigation, the police conducted a forensic interview of a juvenile, an eight-year-old, who disclosed that Jack Holley had repeatedly sexually abused her. It was determined that the abuse occurred in Douglas County during the summer of 2017 when she lived with Holley for a brief time. Holley would often take the child to a wooded area nearby and molest her.

Athens-Clark County Police forwarded their investigation to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office who further investigated the matter. After speaking to additional witnesses and interviewing Holley, who confirmed that the child's parent was employed by him and the child's family lived with him in 2017, the Douglas County Sheriff's office took warrants for Holley's arrest.

Holley was arrested and subsequently released on a pre-trial bond. Holley failed to appear in court in October 2021 when his case was called. Law enforcement later located him in a Southern California desert where he had fled to avoid facing these charges. Holley was again arrested and officers found \$17,000 in cash and various suitcases containing personal belongings in Holley's possession further confirming that he intended to evade prosecution. Holley was extradited back to Georgia and ultimately tried on the charges he sought to avoid.

Additionally, the jury heard evidence that Holley previously committed a similar act of child molestation in 2008 on another child, a ten-year-old. That crime was unreported at the time due to threats that Holley made to the ten-year-old.

Douglas County District Attorney Dalia Racine stated, "This defendant thought he could escape justice and accountability for his tragic abuse of multiple children. He used his position of power over his employees to gain access to their children. I am proud of the victim's strength and bravery, our team, law enforcement partners, and the jury for ensuring that his disgusting behavior will not be tolerated in our community."

After hearing all the evidence and testimony, the jury convicted Holley of child molestation and sexual battery of a minor. On September 23rd, Holley was sentenced to twenty-five years with the first twenty years to be served in confinement.