



*Douglas County
District Attorney*
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NEW RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Man Convicted of Child Molestation

This week the Douglas County District Attorney's Office tried Leon Williams, age 71, for the offense of aggravated child molestation, aggravated sexual battery upon a child, and child molestation. The prosecution team was led by Senior Assistant District Attorney Brook Demeke and Assistant District Attorney Madeline Ross. Judge William "Beau" McClain presided over the matter.

The allegations came to light in April 2018 when the victim, a preschool-aged child, became visibly upset by being told that she would be going to spend the night at a relative's home. Alarmed by the child's unusual reaction, the child's mother began to inquire.

The mother asked the child about a series of people and whether any had ever touched or abused her. When asked about Leon Williams, the child became upset and told her mom that Williams had sexually abused her during prior visits to his home. The child's mother took her to Hughes Spalding Hospital in Atlanta and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office was called.

An investigator with the Sheriff's Office took the child for a forensic interview where the child, through great distress, disclosed more details about how Williams had abused her. Detectives then furthered the investigation by interviewing other witnesses and conducting a search warrant at Williams's home. The investigation ultimately led to Williams's arrest and indictment on these charges. Williams was released on bond while the matter was pending.

For multiple reasons, including the COVID -19 pandemic, the case was considerably delayed. However, following a three-day trial this week, the jury found Williams guilty on one charge of child molestation.

After the trial, District Attorney Dalia Racine commented, "It is tragic that anyone would abuse a child but unfortunately it is all too common. However, when this abuse does happen, we, along with our partners in law enforcement, will spare no expense and no amount of energy to fight to ensure that the perpetrator is held accountable. The real hero in this case is the child who bravely told her mom and authorities what happened and confronted her abuser in court. Because of her courage, this man will not be able to harm another child."

Sentencing is scheduled for May 9th, 2022. After his conviction, Williams was taken into custody and is facing a maximum of twenty years in prison.