

# For Immediate Release

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## **Rossville Man Guilty of Sexual Assault of Three Minors**

December 15, 2021 – LaFayette, GA – A Rossville man was convicted for the rape and molestation of his three minor stepchildren by a Walker County jury following a three-day trial before Judge Brian House ending on December 1, 2021. Steven Brian Higginbotham, 48, was convicted of 20 total counts including multiple counts of rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, incest, and child molestation stemming from years of sexual abuse.

The allegations came to light in 2019 after one of the children disclosed to a friend on her softball team. Forensic interviews were set up at the Children’s Advocacy Center for all three children, and they disclosed a variety of sexual acts they were forced to perform by Higginbotham. Walker County Sheriff’s Department Detective Billy Davis investigated the case and executed a search warrant at Higginbotham’s residence in Rossville. The search of Higginbotham’s residence yielded a sex toy that precisely matched a hand-drawn image created by one of the children depicting a device that was used to sexually assault them. When confronted by police, Higginbotham vomited profusely before being taken into custody.

The case was presented by Chief Assistant District Attorney Kevin Baugh. The three minor victims had been afraid to come forward in the years prior to their disclosures because they had been physically threatened by Higginbotham. At trial, the children finally got the chance to face their abuser. They gave graphic testimony detailing the acts perpetrated by Higginbotham over the course of several years. The children were accompanied to the courtroom by members of B.A.C.A. - Bikers Against Child Abuse, a charitable worldwide motorcycle association built from biker community members. During closing arguments, Baugh, asking for justice for the three brave victims, argued to the jury that the victims were not fearful telling their story in front of a group of strangers because they were finally free from their abuser. Higginbotham was sentenced on December 14 2021 to serve the remainder of his life in prison.

District Attorney Chris Arnt praised CADA Baugh and the team that worked on the case. “Our country has an under-incarceration problem when it comes to dangerous sex predators. I am proud to say that we make it an absolute priority in this office to aggressively prosecute child molesters and all sex offenders.” Arnt also praised the efforts of the Walker County Sheriff’s Department and the Children’s Advocacy center for their work on the case. “It takes a team approach to investigate and prepare these cases for court,” explains Arnt. “We are blessed with an excellent and dedicated group of professionals that truly take these cases to heart and do the utmost to seek justice for abused children.”

The Foster mother of some of the girls stated: "The years of abuse suffered by three young girls at the hand of Steven Higginbotham have finally come to a close. With the guilty verdict from the jury we can close the door on fear and focus on growing and healing. The most important outcome of the guilty verdict is that Steven Higginbotham cannot hurt any other children in the future."

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**FYI, this is a write up from BACA website listed below:**

Bikers Against Child Abuse, Inc. (B.A.C.A.) exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children. We exist as a body of Bikers to empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live. We stand ready to lend support to our wounded friends by involving them with an established, united organization. We work in conjunction with local and state officials who are already in place to protect children. We desire to send a clear message to all involved with the abused child that this child is part of our organization, and that we are prepared to lend our physical and emotional support to them by affiliation, and our physical presence. We stand at the ready to shield these children from further abuse. We do not condone the use of violence or physical force in any manner, however, if circumstances arise such that we are the only obstacle preventing a child from further abuse, we stand ready to be that obstacle.

We also attend court with our wounded friends. The sole purpose for our physical presence is to assist the child in being less intimidated and frightened, and subsequently give an accurate testimony regarding his/her abuse. If the child requests our presence in the courtroom, the parent or guardian for the child must petition the child's attorney, who then will intercede on behalf of the child to the presiding Judge. Absolutely no physical confrontation of the perpetrator will be tolerated by B.A.C.A., and anyone acting in such a manner will be acting outside of the scope of B.A.C.A. and will be held completely and solely accountable for his/her actions. When possible, the two bikers assigned to the child as his/her primary contacts should be in attendance. Given that it is not always possible for the primary contact bikers to be in attendance, a petition may be made to the general membership for their attendance and support. A listing of the court dates and times will be kept and updated on the B.A.C.A. hotline at all times.

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