

For Immediate Release

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After 10-Minute Jury Deliberation, Child Molester Convicted and Sentenced to 30 Years

September 16, 2021, Catoosa County, GA – Thanks to a loving and diligent foster family, a sexual molestation victim can rest more easily tonight because her abuser will be behind bars for a very long time. Tuesday, September 15, 2021, Jonathan William Miller, 37, was convicted in a Catoosa County Superior Court of two counts of child molestation against a 12-year-old family member.

For years, Miller sexually molested a young girl in Tennessee and continued the abuse when the family moved into Georgia in September 2019. Miller instructed the victim to lie about the abuse if questioned, which resulted in a delay in her disclosure. The victim finally disclosed Miller's abuse while in foster care where she felt safe enough to share the trauma. The initial disclosure was to her foster sister to whom the victim had grown close during her time with the foster family. The foster sister encouraged the victim to disclose the abuse which she did at the Children's Advocacy Center.

The case was investigated by Detective Clay Thompson of the Catoosa County Sheriff's Department. Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit (LMJC) Assistant District Attorney David M. Wolfe presented the case over two days. After a deliberation of about 10 minutes, the jury returned a verdict of guilty on all counts.

Jonathan Miller, who had a prior conviction for child molestation in 2003, was sentenced by Judge Brian House to a total of 30 years with the first 20 years to be served in prison.

"I would like to thank Detective Thompson, the Catoosa County Sheriff's Department, and the Children's Advocacy Center for their work on this case and their continued dedication to seeking justice for abused children in our community," said Chris Arnt, LMJC District Attorney. Arnt expressed appreciation for the dozens of hours Assistant District Attorney Wolfe spent preparing this case and helping the jury understand the facts and evidence. Ms. Nicholson worked closely with the victim and her foster family to prepare them for the emotional toll a trial can take on a victim and to assist them with support services.

"The prosecution and sentence in this case demonstrates my office's strong commitment to combat sexual abuse and to fight to protect our children and the most vulnerable members of our community," said Arnt. "While many voices in our country are calling to empty our prisons and complaining about over incarceration, I believe anyone who targets children like this should be behind bars. We will not tolerate the sexual abuse of our children." The LMJC secures some of the toughest sentences for sexual abuse in the entire State of Georgia.

Following the verdict and sentencing, the victim's guardian sent the following email to the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office:

This may have been one of the hardest things our family has ever had to do. However, I am eternally grateful for the employees and service of the Catoosa County District Attorney's office. We are happy with the outcome and grateful that our justice system and the jurors found and served justice for our foster daughter. Thank you Mr. David Wolfe for an excellent job in court, Judge Brian House for sentencing and bringing a small little window of hope to this little girl, to Mr. Arnt and all the district attorneys who came to offer support and lastly to Mrs. Ashley Nicholson, Catoosa County DA child advocate for walking us through every step of this process and defining some of those big lawyer words that no one can possibly understand. Thank you all for finding justice for [M.A.]!