



MEDIA RELEASE

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CLAYTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2023

Michael Malek Cooper. A Clayton County jury returned a guilty verdict on Rape (two counts), Statutory Rape (two counts) and Aggravated Sodomy.

During the trial, the State presented evidence showing that the Defendant sexually and physically abused his two stepdaughters. The Victims, who were two years apart in age, began to be sexually assaulted by the Defendant on a weekly basis when they each turned 11 years old. The Defendant used physical violence to maintain control over the children, and on one occasion he used a clothing steamer to burn their backs and torsos. The Victims showed the jurors their scars from the incident. The Defendant threatened to kill the victims if they ever disclosed the abuse.

When the Victims were 14 and 16, they revealed to their aunt that they were being abused by the Defendant. The State presented evidence showing that the Defendant raped his half-sister on a regular basis when she was 5 years old until she was about 12 years old.

This case was prosecuted by the Clayton County District Attorney Office Special Victims Unit led by Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Rebecca Perez-Espejo. Assistant District Attorney Ahamefula Nwosu was the secondary prosecutor. Investigator Khalil Rajahn, Investigator Mike Harris, and Victim Advocate Kenya Shepherd also played a crucial role in the prosecution of the case.

The trial began on February 20, 2023, and the verdict was returned on February 24, 2023. Clayton County Superior Court Chief Judge Robert Mack presided over this case and sentenced the Defendant to Life in Prison.

“We hope that this conviction helps the Victims of this despicable crime in their healing process. The life sentence ensures that he will never hurt another innocent child. As always, my office will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of all Clayton County citizens.” ~District Attorney Tasha M. Mosley

