

News Release

For Immediate Release
August 1, 2014

Charleston County Jury Convicts Christopher Gilyard Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 2nd Degree.

Charleston, S.C. – On August 1, 2014, a Charleston County jury found Christopher Gilyard (DOB 7/25/81) guilty of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 2nd Degree regarding a sexual assault that took place in July of 2012.

In July of 2012, the victim was babysitting her 3 year old nephew at her mother's beauty salon. The defendant, who was an employee of the salon, cornered the fourteen year old victim as she was leaving a bathroom off of the back hallway. The defendant forced the victim to the floor and threatened to kill her if she screamed. He subsequently raped her while her nephew lay sleeping in the next room. The defendant further threatened to kill the victim if she told of the incident. Approximately one month after the incident, the victim finally felt safe enough to tell her mother what happened, and the police were notified.

Assistant Solicitor, Debbie Herring-Lash and Shannon Elliott prosecuted the offender. "This young victim showed bravery beyond her years by coming forward and participating in the prosecution of a man that she believed for so long would kill her if she broke her silence," said Assistant Solicitor Elliott.

The jury returned its verdict Friday morning after approximately 5 hours of deliberation. The defendant had a prior record that included two counts of burglary. Judge Deadra Jefferson sentenced him to 13 years of incarceration.

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