

State of South Carolina



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SCARLETT A. WILSON

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR ASSAULTING HIS GIRLFRIEND

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Ashley Kay
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Charleston, S.C.— Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury convicted Richard Hunter Bottoms, age 61, of Domestic Violence 2nd Degree on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, following a one-day trial. The Honorable Martha Rivers presided over the trial and sentenced Bottoms to 18 months to the South Carolina Department of Corrections followed by 18 months' probation. Assistant Solicitors Tiffany Izer and William Hampton prosecuted the case.

Testimony at trial revealed that on September 11, 2024, the victim went to City of Charleston Police Department in West Ashley to report she had been assaulted by Bottoms the day prior. She reported around 6:00 p.m., Bottoms, who was her live-in boyfriend of six years, came into the house angry and accusing her of having an affair with a neighbor. After the victim denied the allegations, Bottoms assaulted her. He screamed in her face, grabbed her arms, and attempted to pull her to the ground. The friction from Bottoms pulling on the victim's arms caused severe bruising and caused her skin to break open causing several open, bloody wounds. The victim was afraid if Bottoms got her to the ground that he would strangle her. Bottoms then threatened the victim stating, "if you report this to police, you'll be dead before they get here." The victim feared if she contacted law enforcement, her life would be in danger. The victim waited until Bottoms went to work the next day to go to City of Charleston Police Department and report the assault.

The victim met with Detective Foxley who took her statement and observed her injuries. Detective Foxley testified from his training and experience, the victim displayed clear signs of someone who was a victim of domestic violence based on her demeanor during the interview. Bottoms had a prior conviction from May 2023 for domestic violence with the same victim.

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