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COWETA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2021

***TIMOTHY LEE HATMAKER SENTENCED TO SERVE 20 YEARS IN PRISON
IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEGOTIATED GUILTY PLEA TO CRUELTY TO CHILDREN CRIMES***

On September 9, 2021, at the Calendar Call for jury trials scheduled before Judge Bill Hamrick for the week of September 27, 2021, Timothy Lee Hatmaker, 29, of Villa Rica pleaded guilty to two counts of Cruelty to Children in the First Degree and Aggravated Battery, Family Violence. In accordance with a negotiated plea agreement, Coweta Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Bill Hamrick sentenced Hatmaker to 30 years, with the first 20 years to be served in prison.

Assistant District Attorney Lara Myers prosecuted the case. Investigator Kimber Biggs of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The charges arose from an incident on March 27, 2019, when deputies responded to Tanner Medical Center in response to a 6 month old female who had received significant injuries. Once on scene, law enforcement learned that Hatmaker's 6 month old daughter had been transported to Tanner having seizures. The infant was later transported to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta where she was treated for brain bleeds, retinal hemorrhages, and was found to have healing rib fractures. Deputies began investigating and conducting interviews. During the course of the investigation, Hatmaker admitted that his daughter had been crying and he threw her down onto the ground, after which she began screaming and seizing. He also admitted that about two months prior, while she was crying, he squeezed the child around her chest, that being consistent with the healing injuries observed.

I commend ADA Myers and Investigator Briggs for their hard work and commitment to getting justice for this defenseless child. This office will seek a substantial prison sentence for any person, like Defendant Hatmaker, who would so severely harm a child. In this case, justice was served by removing this defendant from free society for two decades.

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