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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 5, 2025

Re: State of Maryland v. Harold Ferguson

On June 5, 2025, Harold Ferguson, 49, of Edgewood, was convicted of three counts of Sex Abuse of a Minor following a four-day criminal jury trial before the Honorable Alex M. Allman in the Circuit Court for Harford County. This comes after two previous mistrials resulting in hung juries. This conviction also follows a contentious motions hearing between the parties on a Motion for Other Sexually Assaultive Behavior Evidence.

Evidence presented at trial proved that between August 2004 and August 2008, Ferguson sexually abused his then minor stepdaughter almost every day in the family home in Edgewood, Maryland. The abuse began when the minor victim was just six years old when the family lived in Baltimore City and continued until she was a senior in high school. When the family moved to Harford County, the minor child would be home alone with the Defendant, and he would sexually abuse her in the basement while none of the other family members were home. Evidence was further presented proving that the Defendant would punish the victim when she refused his advances by taking away her possessions and the door to her bedroom.

Detective Horner, of the Harford County Sheriff's Office, testified about the investigation and the individuals he interviewed. He advised the jury that he interviewed the victim's boyfriend in 2021 who told him that he had had a threesome with the Defendant and the victim when they were around the age of sixteen. Detective Horner's interview of the boyfriend's statement was played for the members of the jury when he told the Detective he had observed the victim performing oral sex on the Defendant in the basement of the family's home. Detective Horner testified that he also interviewed the victim's mother, who was cold and distant. She failed to return for a follow-up interview with him concerning the abuse of her own child.

The victim also testified, stating that everything came to a head one day when she refused the Defendant's advances, and a physical fight occurred between them involving mace. The victim further advised that the family then headed to a friend's home in Baltimore City for the minor victim to confide in her mother as to what had been occurring. Testimony was taken from an individual who was present in the home when the victim disclosed the abuse to her mother and testified that the victim's mother did not call 911, did not take the child to the hospital, and did not console the child. Testimony also revealed that after the family fight, the victim's mother had her confront the Defendant and he told the mother, "She came on to me."

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The victim's mother testified on behalf of the Defense, testifying that she did not recall a fight occurring at the family home. On rebuttal, the State played the interview of the Defendant where he told Detective Horner there was a physical altercation between himself, the victim, and her mother.

Following the conviction, State's Attorney Alison M. Healey stated: "Delayed report cases are some of the toughest cases we try. I commend Assistant State's Attorney Becky Malkowski for her perseverance and determination in this case. She never gave up, and she truly is a champion for child sexual abuse victims. Her determination, along with the work of all the dedicated staff of the Harford County Child Advocacy Center, ensured that justice was served today and that a predator will no longer be in a position to victimize another child."

State's Attorney Healey also thanks Detective Robert Horner, Forensic Interviewer Alethea Miller, and victim advocates Brenda Leard and Chris Taylor from the Harford County Child Advocacy Center for their hard work and dedication to this case.