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Attorney Chiri Holt

"NO MOTHER SHOULD GIVE BIRTH BEHIND BARS."

Janel Nicole - International Journalist - ADMS

For Immediate Release

Cherokee County, GA - June 5, 2025 - Ms. Haley Nelson a former Douglas County resident is nearly eight months pregnant, and locked behind bars in Cherokee County; shackled, and silenced. Prior to being incarcerated, she did not have a criminal record. She is not a danger to the community, and she is not a flight risk. And, yet, she is being held without bond, stripped of her freedom, her dignity, and her ability to safely bring her child into the world.

Today, Attorney Chiri Holt, formerly known as Attorney Rutledge, a respected legal force known for her fearless advocacy and relentless pursuit to justice, is demanding Ms. Haley's immediate release. Ms. Haley is facing two charges: Interference with custody and Interstate Interference with custody. These charges stem from a custody battle with her ex-boyfriend, not a criminal lifestyle.

After nearly five years, Mr. Brian Cosgrove recently legitimized two of Ms. Haley's children in April 2025. Before any court orders were issued, Ms. Haley traveled with her children out of state, a decision influenced by her safety concerns for their well-being. Cherokee County Superior Court later issued a Temporary Custody Order to the children's father without Ms. Haley's presence. Ms. Haley never had a chance to explain, and she was not served or processed in accordance with the laws of Georgia. Now, she is being punished as though she had fled, but Ms. Haley voluntarily purchased an airplane ticket to return to Georgia and appear in court.

Unfortunately, Ms. Haley was arrested in Oregon on April 23, and her children were removed from her arms. Though initially released, she attempted to return to Georgia on May 10, but was re-arrested before she could board her flight. She was extradited and arrived in Georgia on May 28, where she remains incarcerated.

"This is not justice, this is punishment," says Attorney Holt. In a powerful motion for a bond, Attorney Holt cites Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 17-6-1), which provides the right to bond unless the person poses a proven risk. "Jail was never meant to be a maternity ward," says Attorney Holt. "Haley deserves a hospital room, not a cell. She deserves prenatal care, not punishment. She deserves to hold her baby in peace, not pain and chains."

A GoFundMe campaign has been established by Ms. Haley's mother to support her during this challenging time.

For detailed information or to arrange an interview with Attorney Holt, contact 404-492-9511 (Office).