



**CHRIS D. HENNIS**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
**THIRTEENTH DISTRICT**

On Thursday, March 23, 2023, Justin Ducksworth was sentenced to 20 years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections for the crime of Aggravated Domestic Violence. Mr. Ducksworth was accused of beating his spouse with a pvc pipe and a broom handle over the course of several hours. The victim was finally able to escape her home and seek medical attention after Ducksworth went to sleep. Unfortunately, in many cases of domestic violence the victim refuses to pursue charges or declines to aid in the prosecution of their abuser. In this case, the victim fully cooperated with the Magee Police Department during their investigation and assisted in the prosecution of her abuser. There is no excuse for domestic violence and it will not be tolerated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court District. If you are a victim of domestic abuse please call 911 and report it to law enforcement. There are also resources available by calling the National Domestic Abuse Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or visit the website at [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

Also, on Friday, March 24, 2023, Raymond Trent Smith of Gulfport, was sentenced to 15 years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections for the crime of Trafficking of Methamphetamine. Smith was pulled over for careless driving by a Simpson County Deputy Sheriff and discovered to be in possession of 81 grams of methamphetamine. Smith will have to serve ten years day for day of his sentence before he is eligible for parole. Drug use and drug dealing are not victimless crimes, in fact, many of the violent crimes committed in our district stem from drugs. Also, most of the property crimes, burglaries and grand larceny, etc., committed in our district directly stem from drug users stealing other people's property to sell to fund their drug habit. Our local law enforcement works diligently to arrest drug dealers but they have to have the public's help. If you witness suspicious activity please report it to law enforcement.

I want to thank the Magee Police Department and the Simpson County Sheriff's Department for their outstanding investigations into both of these crimes and for their continued hard work making Simpson County a safe place to live, work and raise our families.