

# NEWS RELEASE

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**September 28, 2009**

## **Crimes Against Persons Team convicts 32 felons of violent crimes**

Thirty-two defendants pled guilty to felonies last week in Mecklenburg County Superior Court. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in administrative court from Monday, September 21, to Friday, September 25, 2009. Based on the structured sentencing laws in North Carolina, sentences ranged from probation to some of the active prison sentences noted below. The Honorable Eric L. Levinson, Superior Court Judge, presided over courtroom 5310.

Jeffrey Kelley, age 43, pled guilty to robbery with a dangerous weapon, common law robbery, possession of drug paraphernalia, and resisting a public officer. Kelley also admitted his status as an habitual felon and received a sentence of 151-191 months in prison.

Thomas Dillingham, age 16, pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, and two counts of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. Dillingham was sentenced to 73-97 months in prison (to be served now). That sentence is to be followed by a period of probation with a suspended sentence of 25-39 months in prison (subject to being imposed at a later date if probation is revoked). Dillingham, age 15 at the time of the offense, was transferred to Superior Court where his case was handled as if he were an adult. The case was transferred upon a successful motion and argument from the District Attorney's Juvenile Prosecution Team in juvenile court (*see* N.C.G.S. 7B-2203).

James Robinson, age 33, pled guilty to second-degree rape and felony breaking or entering and received a sentence of 90-117 months in prison.

Kenneth Black, age 41, pled guilty to first-degree sex offense and was sentenced to 168-211 months in prison.

*Note: Almost all guilty pleas entered in criminal administrative court are the result of an agreed upon plea arrangement between the State and the defendant, which is then approved by the sentencing judge. For more information about why most cases must be resolved by plea negotiation instead of jury trial, please visit the "Understanding Criminal Court" section of the DA's website at [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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