

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Murderer sentenced to at least 30 years in prison after jury's guilty verdict

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, a jury found Ralph Lewis Gettys, 34, guilty of the murder of Raymona Abraham, 21. The trial, which began January 6, 2014, was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Lucy N. Inman, Superior Court Judge.

Gettys was tried for 1) murder, 2) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and 3) misdemeanor simple assault. Today, the jury found him *guilty* of second-degree murder, as well as possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and misdemeanor simple assault. For the murder offense, Judge Inman sentenced Gettys to 339-419 months in prison. For the firearm offense, Judge Inman also sentenced him to an additional 21-35 months in prison, which is to be served consecutively to the murder sentence. And for the simple assault conviction, Judge Inman sentenced Gettys to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County jail, which is to be served concurrently with the sentence for murder.



Ralph Lewis Gettys

In December 2012, Gettys and Mr. Abraham were involved in an argument outside of an illegal liquor house on B Avenue in Charlotte. Gettys, who was a bouncer at the house and knew Mr. Abraham was unarmed, pulled out a gun, shot him three times and also physically assaulted another man. Mr. Abraham died at the scene. At trial, Gettys claimed he acted in self-defense. By finding Gettys guilty of second-degree murder, the jury rejected his claim of self-defense.

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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