

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Defendant who left court before verdict is apprehended and sentenced

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A defendant who was on the run for more than a month after a jury convicted him of robbery and other offenses has been apprehended and sentenced to prison.

[The trial against Tahj Wilson](#), 24, was held December 9-11, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judge. The jury found Wilson *guilty* of 1) robbery with a dangerous weapon, 2) conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) felony possession of cocaine.

Wilson, however, was not present to hear the jury's verdict because he failed to return to the courtroom following a court recess. Under state law, a defendant cannot be sentenced if he or she is not present in the courtroom. So, Judge Ervin issued an order for Wilson's arrest, and police began searching for his whereabouts.



Tahj Wilson

On January 29, 2014, Wilson was located in Charlotte after police received an anonymous tip. Today, Judge Ervin sentenced Wilson to a total of 117-159 months in prison.

Wilson's conviction stems from an October 2011 incident in which Wilson and his co-conspirator, Garnett Taylor, robbed two undercover police officers. The officers, who were working in a joint operation between the Huntersville and Pineville Police Departments, made arrangements to meet in the parking lot of a Huntersville restaurant and buy marijuana from Wilson. When the undercover officers arrived and spoke with Wilson, Taylor approached and pulled out a gun. Wilson then demanded the officers' belongings. Other officers, who were nearby to conduct surveillance of the drug transaction, quickly arrived and arrested Wilson and Taylor. Taylor previously pled guilty in connection with the case.

*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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