

NEWS RELEASE

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14 defendants convicted of sex offenses, domestic violence crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team convicted 14 defendants in Superior Court during the week of March 18, 2019. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Among those convicted were:

Tommy Williamson, 41, pled guilty to attempted first-degree rape. Williamson was sentenced to 108-190 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Williamson must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Aaron Ashford, 30, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Ashford was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison.

Arthur Blue, 67, pled guilty to three counts of third-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. Blue was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Blue's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. Blue must register as a sex offender for thirty years.

Brandon Coleman, 26, pled guilty to felony habitual misdemeanor assault. Coleman was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison.

Myles Strickland, 28, pled guilty to assault by strangulation. Strickland was sentenced to 8-19 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Strickland's successful completion of 36 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Strickland must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Antonio Albert, 37, pled guilty to assault by strangulation. Albert was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Albert's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Albert must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Kendrick Burch, 30, pled guilty to 1) felony habitual misdemeanor assault and 2) assault on a female. Burch was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Burch's successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Burch must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

Mark Wiggins, 32, pled guilty to felony habitual misdemeanor assault. Wiggins was sentenced to 6-17 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending Wiggins' successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As a condition of his probation, Wiggins must complete a certified intervention program for batterers.

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.

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