

NEWS RELEASE

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Murderer convicted at trial, sentenced to life in prison for killing high school student

From March 14, 2011 to April 6, 2011, the District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Gary Daniels for the first-degree murder of his girlfriend, Charney Watt. The jury trial took place in courtroom 5370 at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse. The Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III, Superior Court Judge, presided.

Daniels, 21, killed Charney on March 1, 2009. Charney was 18 years old and in her senior year at Olympic High School. Charney and the defendant were at the defendant's home when the defendant retrieved a shotgun that was hidden in the backyard, went back inside the house, and confronted Charney about their relationship. During the confrontation Charney told the defendant she was not scared of him and that if he was going to kill her to get it over with. The defendant then shot Charney one time in the head at close range. In a four-hour interview with Detectives Gary McFadden and Keith Martin, the defendant admitted to shooting Charney.



Gary Daniels

The jury found Daniels *guilty* of first-degree murder. Daniels was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

After the verdict was read, the defendant apologized and said that he loved Charney. However, the defendant never expressed remorse during his interview with detectives. During the trial, even when jurors became emotional, the defendant sat unaffected, never showing any sadness or remorse over Charney's death.

Charney's family and friends were present in Court throughout the trial. After the verdict, some addressed the Court, saying how much they love and miss Charney. They also thanked the jury for their verdict.

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