

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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## Jury's verdict sends rapist to prison for at least 32 years

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who raped a teenage girl will spend at least 32 years in prison. The trial of Stephen Lamont Ward began April 27, 2015, in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Robert T. Sumner, Superior Court Judge.

Ward, 42, was tried for 1) two counts of statutory rape and 2) two counts of indecent liberties with a child. On April 29, 2015, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Sumner sentenced Ward to a total of 390-588 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Ward must register as a sex offender and participate in satellite-based monitoring for the rest of his life.

In July 2013, Ward met the 14-year-old victim in uptown Charlotte and then drove her to a hotel, suggesting that she should be a model and offering to take modeling photos of her. Ward then raped the victim. When the victim's mother began calling her, Ward returned the victim to uptown Charlotte.



Stephen Ward

*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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