

NEWS RELEASE

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Man sentenced to life in prison without parole for Charlotte family's murders

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Linny Barcliff will spend the rest of his life in prison for the murders of Lorenzo and Cheryl Graves, who were killed along with their 4-year-old daughter, Oznola Graves, in 2011. Barcliff entered his guilty plea today in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge.

Barcliff, 23, pled guilty to two counts of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to two consecutive sentences of *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

In August 2011, Barcliff and his codefendants, Lorenzo White and Joe Amous, planned to rob Mr. Graves at his apartment in Charlotte. Barcliff went alone to the Graves' apartment, where he shot Mr. and Mrs. Graves. White then came to the apartment, and together, White and Barcliff ransacked the home. When relatives asked police to check on the Graves family because they had not been able to reach the family, officers discovered Mr. and Mrs. Graves dead in the apartment. The body of their daughter was found in an upstairs bedroom. She had been stabbed.



Linny Barcliff

Barcliff later admitted to killing Mr. and Mrs. Graves but denied stabbing the 4-year-old. The circumstances of the child's death remain unclear. White, who previously pled guilty to three counts of second-degree murder and related charges for his role in all three killings, is currently serving a prison term of 300-379 months in prison.

For his role in the incident, Amous previously pled guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon and two counts of accessory after the fact to first-degree murder. Today, he was sentenced to a total of 184-240 months in prison.

Barcliff was scheduled for a capital trial beginning in July. After consulting with the victims' family members, prosecutors allowed him to enter guilty pleas to ensure a conviction that will prevent Barcliff from ever harming anyone in the community again and spare the family from reliving their loved ones' deaths at trial. In court today, relatives of the Graves family thanked the District Attorney's Homicide Team and Charlotte-Mecklenburg police for the work they did to apprehend the suspects and serve justice.

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

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