

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

May 27, 2011

Man convicted for stealing over \$318,000 from children's theatre

CHARLOTTE, NC – John Hurst, 51, pled guilty to eight felony counts of Embezzlement on Thursday, May 19, 2011, before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge. Hurst embezzled over \$318,000 from the Matthews Playhouse between 2002 and 2009 while volunteering as Treasurer. The Matthews Playhouse is a nonprofit children's theatre.

Hurst forged signatures on Matthews Playhouse checks in order to pay his credit card, insurance bills, and other personal expenses.

Hurst will be imprisoned for an initial period of 12-16 months. Upon release, Hurst will be placed on five years of supervised probation. During the term of probation, Hurst will be required to make minimum monthly payments of \$1,500 in an effort to make restitution to the victim in the total amount of \$232,486.55; he has already paid \$86,000.00 in restitution. If Hurst violates the terms of his probation, a judge may revoke it and order that Hurst serve an additional 36-48 months in prison.

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.

// End //