

NEWS RELEASE

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Serial rapist convicted, sentenced to 34-45 years in prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Phillip George Payton, 24, pled guilty on June 3, 2013, in connection with the sexual assaults of three women at a Charlotte apartment complex in 2009.

The State called the case for trial June 3 in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Kevin M. Bridges, Superior Court Judge. After Judge Bridges heard pre-trial motions, Payton decided to plead guilty. He pled guilty to 1) two counts of second-degree rape, 2) second-degree sex offense and 3) three counts of first-degree burglary. He was sentenced to a total of 411-549 months in prison. Judge Bridges also ordered that, upon Payton's release from prison, he must register as a sex offender and participate in satellite-based monitoring for the rest of his life.



Phillip Payton

All three assaults occurred at the Yorktown Garden apartments on Tyvola Drive in Charlotte, where Payton lived. The three victims, who ranged in age from 20 to 62, also lived in the apartments. The first assault occurred in February 2009. The victim was in her bedroom, where her child was sleeping, when she heard a knock at her front door. When she exited her bedroom, Payton attacked her and sprayed her in the eyes with what is believed to be a cleaning solution. The victim fought against him but stopped struggling because she feared her attacker would become aware of the presence of her child. Payton forced her to the floor and raped her.

In September 2009, another woman was asleep when Payton entered her apartment and held her down while she screamed for help. He sexually assaulted her and then fled. After the assault, the victim found a can of bathroom cleaner in her bedroom, which had been left there by Payton.

In the third assault, which occurred in October 2009, the victim awoke to find Payton in her apartment. She began screaming and struggling against his advances, biting him on the hand. He punched her, rubbed a substance from a small bottle in her eyes and then raped her.

During each of the attacks, Payton wore all black clothing, a mask and gloves. DNA found at all three scenes matched that of Payton, who confessed to the sexual assaults when he was arrested soon after the third attack.

The State allowed Payton to enter a plea of guilty rather than proceeding with the trial in an attempt to prevent the victims from being further traumatized at trial.

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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