District Attorney's Office

State of North Carolina
26th Prosecutorial District
Mecklenburg County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Teacher pleads guilty to statutory rape, sent to prison

CHARLOTTE, NC - On August 5, 2011, Ernest Nichols pled guilty to statutory rape in courtroom 5370 of the Mecklenburg County Courthouse. The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Nichols to 216-269 months (18-22 years) in the North Carolina Department of Correction.

Nichols, age 44 at the time the crimes were committed, was arrested in October of 2009 when a 16-year-old girl reported that she had been raped by him when she was age 15. At the time of his arrest, Nichols was a Charlotte-Mecklenburg school teacher at Ranson Middle School.



Ernest Nichols

The defendant video-taped his crimes involving the victim and, when he was confronted by the victim's mother after the victim disclosed the abuse, Nichols drove down Highway 73 and threw the video recordings into the woods. That evidence was retrieved by the Huntersville Police Department.

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