

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Cold case serial rapist sentenced to life in prison 24 years after sex assaults

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Twenty-four years after he raped three Charlotte women, Drayton Lamar Thompson has been sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison. A jury found him guilty of multiple sex crimes in the cases, which went cold until the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit reopened the investigations. The trial began August 17, 2015, in courtroom 5130 before The Honorable Hugh B. Lewis, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team tried Thompson, 45, for 1) five counts of first-degree rape, 2) four counts of first-degree sexual offense, 3) two counts of first-degree kidnapping, 4) second-degree kidnapping and 5) felony conspiracy. The jury found him *guilty* of 12 of the 13 offenses. The jury found him *not guilty* of one count of first-degree sex offense. Judge Lewis sentenced him to three consecutive sentences of *life in prison*.



Drayton Thompson

Thompson was charged in connection with three separate sexual assaults that occurred in 1991. In May 1991, the victim was walking on Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte when a car approached with two men inside. They asked if she wanted a ride, and she accepted. When she got into the car, one of the men put a towel over her head and choked her as the other man drove to a home, where both men raped her. Then, they drove her away from the home and dropped her off on The Plaza.

In July 1991, another victim and her sister were walking to a bus stop in Charlotte when two men in a car approached and offered them a ride. The driver soon stopped at a convenience store. The two women began to exit the car, but the men pulled the victim back into the car, leaving her sister at the store. The men put a piece of clothing over the victim's head and drove her to a home where the men raped her.

The third incident occurred in August 1991. Charges against a codefendant, who was also charged in connection with that incident, are still pending.

CMPD's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit reopened the cases and examined evidence that had been collected during the initial investigations. Police discovered DNA evidence that linked Thompson to each of the three assaults. He was arrested in Charlotte in 2012.

The victims in the May and July incidents are now deceased. At trial, the State introduced the testimony of doctors and a nurse who testified about the information provided by these two

victims when they were examined at an area hospital after the attacks. The third victim – the woman who was sexually assaulted in August 1991 – testified at trial.

The District Attorney's Office is proud to work with CMPD's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit to protect the public from sex offenders and provide closure for victims who have waited years for the justice they deserve.

This is the third sexual assault trial conviction obtained by the Crimes Against Persons Team over the past month. [Clairy Kanyinda Mbaya](#) and [Frederick Sullivan](#) were both convicted by juries in August.

*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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