

NEWS RELEASE

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5 defendants sentenced in homicide cases

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team convicted four defendants in homicide cases. Another defendant who previously pled guilty was sentenced to prison. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable Richard D. Boner, Superior Court Judge.

Joseph Brown, 63, pled guilty to second-degree murder. He was sentenced to 180-228 months in prison. In September 2012, officers went to an apartment on Shadow Oaks Drive in Charlotte after a relative asked police to check the welfare of Mamie Caldwell Brown, 71. Inside, police found Ms. Brown deceased. She'd been strangled. Her husband, Joseph Brown, was arrested at a motel in Charleston, S.C.

Kareem Anthony Banks, 28, pled guilty to second-degree murder. He was sentenced to 169-212 months in prison. In June 2011, Banks fatally stabbed Sammy Davis Best Jr., 44, during an argument over money at a motel on Independence Boulevard in Charlotte.

Dedric McKenzie, 17, pled guilty to second-degree murder for the September 2012 killing of Kydaryune Curry, 17. He was sentenced to 157-201 months in prison. Charges are still pending against a co-defendant in the case.

Sydney McDaniel, 19, pled guilty to 1) involuntary manslaughter and 2) driving after consuming alcohol while under age 21. She was sentenced to 13-25 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending her successful completion of 60 months of supervised probation. As a condition of her probation, McDaniel must serve 90 days in the Mecklenburg County jail and pay \$5,468.78 in restitution. Judge Boner also ordered her to undergo a substance abuse assessment, not to possess or use controlled substances or alcoholic beverages during her probation and not to operate a motor vehicle for 24 months. In April 2013, McDaniel was driving on Pence Road in Charlotte when she ran off the road, overcorrected and then struck a tree. Martha Rosales, a 15-year-old passenger in the vehicle, died at the scene. An adult and McDaniel's young child, who were also passengers in the vehicle, suffered minor injuries. McDaniel's blood alcohol content was below the legal limit, but she admitted to drinking alcohol before the wreck.

Briley Belk, 32, previously pled guilty to 1) second-degree murder for the January 2012 killing of Edward Rosen, 52, and 2) robbery with a dangerous weapon in a separate case. Today, he was sentenced to 180-228 months in prison. A co-defendant in the murder case, Kendrick Tabb, pled guilty in August and was sent to 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.

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