

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Man sentenced to 50 years in prison for molesting child

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – After a jury found Jesus Martinez guilty today of molesting a child over the course of more than a year, Martinez was sent to prison for at least 50 years. The trial, which began September 14, 2015, was held in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team tried Martinez, 26, for 1) four counts of indecent liberties with a child, 2) four counts of a sexual act by a substitute parent, 3) two counts of rape of a child and 4) two counts of sexual offense with a child. At the close of the State's evidence, the court dismissed one count of rape of a child in order to pursue charges best supported by the testimony provided at trial. The jury found Martinez *guilty* of the remaining charges. Judge Evans sentenced him to two consecutive sentences of 300-420 months in prison, totaling a minimum of 600 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Martinez must register as a sex offender and participate in satellite-based monitoring for the rest of his life.



Jesus Martinez

Martinez began sexually assaulting the victim, who was his girlfriend's daughter, in 2012 when she was 6 years old. In May 2014, the victim's mother became suspicious and asked her daughter whether Martinez had touched her. The victim then disclosed the molestation to her mother, who called Charlotte-Mecklenburg police.

At trial, the young victim showed immense bravery under difficult circumstances by taking the stand to testify. Her testimony and the testimony of experts from Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center and the Pediatric Resource Center were critical in order to secure this conviction and protect other children from harm.

This is the fourth sexual assault trial conviction obtained by the Crimes Against Persons Team during since August. [Clairy Kanyinda Mbaya](#) and [Frederick Sullivan](#) were both convicted by juries in August, and [Drayton Thompson](#) was sentenced to life in prison after a jury convicted him earlier this month.

*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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