

# NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

**March 6, 2020**

## **Special Victims Team convicts 14 offenders**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team, which prosecutes cases of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse, convicted 14 defendants during the week of March 2, 2020. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

Corey Allen, 43, pled guilty to second-degree sexual offense. He was sentenced to 66-140 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Allen must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

Andrew Manning, 42, pled guilty to assault by strangulation. He was sentenced to 5-15 months in prison.

Christopher DeStefano, 26, pled guilty to misdemeanor secret peeing. He was sentenced to 60 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

Markei Heath, 22, pled guilty to promoting prostitution. He was sentenced to 17-30 months in prison; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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