

NEWS RELEASE

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Man sentenced to life in prison for murder of fiancée

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Karlos Antonio Holmes was sentenced to life in prison after a jury found him guilty of murdering his fiancée, 31-year-old Tiffany Claiborne. The trial, which began May 15, 2017, was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Nathaniel J. Poovey, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Holmes, 47, for first-degree murder. On May 26, 2017, the jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Poovey sentenced him to *life in prison without the possibility of parole*.

On November 25, 2013, Ms. Claiborne's coworkers became concerned when she did not arrive at work or respond to their calls or text messages, so they went to her Charlotte home to check on her. When they arrived, they found her dead inside.



Karlos Holmes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police worked long and tirelessly to gather evidence and solve the crime, arresting Holmes in 2015 after detectives determined that Holmes had killed Ms. Claiborne and then staged the crime scene. Her body was found in a bathtub with a hairdryer tossed in the water, however, the medical examiner determined that she had not drowned, and there no evidence of electrocution. She did have injuries consistent with possible strangulation or suffocation. There were also signs of a struggle in her bedroom. Holmes was seen driving Ms. Claiborne's car on the day her body was discovered, and in the trunk of that car, police located a broken nightstand that was missing from Ms. Claiborne's bedroom. That nightstand had been in her bedroom the evening before, according to friends who had visited her home.

Holmes gave conflicting information to police. He denied that he and the victim had any problems with their relationship, however, text messages showed that Ms. Claiborne had ended the relationship and instructed Holmes to move out of the home.

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