

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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Jury convicts man of second-degree murder in 2016 stabbing

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – James Leaks will spend a minimum of 27 years in prison for the 2016 stabbing death of Darrell Cureton, 49. The trial, which began on July 30, 2018 and ended today, was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable Carla N. Archie, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Leaks, 53, for first-degree murder. Today the jury found Leaks guilty of the lesser-included offense of second-degree murder. Following the jury's verdict, Judge Archie sentenced Leaks to 324-401 months in prison.

On August 16, 2016 in the Lockwood community of Charlotte, Leaks approached Cureton and Cureton's girlfriend, whom Leaks had previously dated. Leaks walked into the yard of her apartment after being told to leave and pulled a knife from his waistband. Leaks stabbed Cureton one time in the left side of the chest, puncturing his heart. Cureton died on scene. Leaks fled the scene on foot but was apprehended by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in a nearby house soon after. Leaks directed officers to the knife, which was located in the house where he was found.

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