

# NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray  
District Attorney

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## Steps for Change Domestic Violence Awareness Walk to support victims' shelter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – She met the man who would become her husband when she was in her late teens. They sometimes had a volatile relationship, but ignoring warnings, she married him and they soon had a child. One night she awoke to him holding a knife to her throat, saying “I could kill you right now.” After that, she often hid in her daughter’s room at night. But the violence continued. She thought she’d brought it on herself. Isolated from her family, she was in a dark and lonely place.

That victim – now a survivor – will be among those participating in the Fourth Annual Steps for Change Domestic Violence Awareness Walk, hosted by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney’s Office on October 22, 2014. The DA’s Office invites the public to join prosecutors at the event to take a stand against domestic violence.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

“Far too many people view domestic violence as a private matter that should remain private and behind closed doors,” says District Attorney Andrew Murray. “The sobering truth is that domestic violence has a devastating impact not only on victims and their children but also on the safety of our community. It’s crucial that we stand up for victims and declare that we, as a community, won’t tolerate violence in our homes or in the homes of our families, neighbors and friends.”

This year’s event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. October 22 at the Square in uptown Charlotte, located at the intersection of Trade and Tryon streets. The registration cost is \$10 for each participant. All proceeds will benefit Safe Alliance’s Clyde and Ethel Dickson Shelter for battered women. [Safe Alliance](#) is a local nonprofit that not only operates the 80-bed shelter but also provides important services such as safety planning, support groups, legal advocacy and life skills training for domestic violence victims in Mecklenburg County.

Steps for Change is held annually in October. The event is spearheaded each year by Assistant District Attorney Jamie Adams, supervisor of the DA’s Domestic Violence Team. Ms. Adams



has led this group of dedicated prosecutors since District Attorney Murray created the team in 2012. She also serves on a number of boards and task forces to address domestic violence issues, including Mecklenburg County's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.

To register for Steps for Change, please visit [www.safeallianceevents.org](http://www.safeallianceevents.org). For photos of last year's event, visit the [DA's Facebook page](#).

*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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