

NEWS RELEASE

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Jury convicts man in 1992 cold case

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A jury recently convicted Billy Joe Henry of felony assault and kidnapping in connection with a 1992 cold case. The trial began on September 30, 2019, in courtroom 5110 before The Honorable Stephan R. Futrell, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team tried Henry, 67, for 1) assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury, 2) first-degree kidnapping and 3) first-degree rape. On October 8, 2019, the jury found him *guilty* of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury and first-degree kidnapping. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the rape offense, and as a result, Judge Futrell declared a mistrial as to that charge. Then, under sentencing laws that were in place at the time of the offense, Judge Futrell sentenced Henry to 40 years in prison for the kidnapping offense and 20 years in prison for the assault offense.

The District Attorney's Office would like to express its gratitude to the victim, who testified 27 years after her assault. She was joined in court by many of the original first responders and investigators – from the responding patrol officer to the physician who conducted the victim's exam. We are grateful for their continued willingness to secure justice.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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