

NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney

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Man sentenced to 14-21 years in prison for molesting children

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, Orlando Caldera, 65, pled guilty to one count of first degree sex offense and five counts of indecent liberties with a child. On August 4, 2014, two young girls at a Memorial United Methodist Church gathering on Central Avenue told their parents that Caldera, the associate pastor who worked with the Spanish-speaking population of the church, had just kissed them in a way that made them feel uncomfortable. When they were interviewed during the investigation, the girls disclosed other incidents of fondling by the defendant and also disclosed that there were other girls who had been touched by the defendant. During the investigation, four other girls disclosed fondling by the defendant. The Honorable Yvonne Mims Evans, Superior Court Judge, sentenced Caldera to 168-262 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Caldera must register as a sex offender.

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.

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