

# NEWS RELEASE

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November 6, 2019

## Man convicted of sex crime after contacting young victim on social media

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who used social media to reach out to a young victim has been convicted of a statutory sex crime by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team. The team, which prosecutes cases of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse, also convicted another nine defendants during the week of October 28, 2019. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5310 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge.

David McQuiller, 26, pled guilty to 1) attempted statutory sexual offense, 2) indecent liberties with a child and 3) dissemination of harmful material to a minor. He was sentenced to 125-210 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, McQuiller must register as a sex offender for 30 years. In May 2018, McQuiller contacted the 15-year-old victim via Facebook, and they began exchanging messages. He told the victim that he was 20 years old when, in fact, he was 24 years old. Eventually, McQuiller came to the victim's home in the middle of the night for sexual purposes. The next morning, he walked the victim to school. The victim's mother contacted police after she discovered text messages in her daughter's phone from McQuiller, who was asking the victim not to tell anyone about their relationship because "this could end [expletive] bad for me."

Others convicted during this session include:

Alfred Watkins, 38, pled guilty to 1) felony habitual misdemeanor assault, 2) possession with the intent to sell or deliver cocaine, 3) felony breaking or entering and 4) being a habitual felon. He was sentenced to 77-105 months in prison.

James Smith, 61, pled guilty to attempted second-degree rape. He was sentenced to 50-120 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Smith must register as a sex offender for 30 years.

*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](http://www.charmeckda.com).*

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