

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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'Ski mask rapist' sentenced to life in prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – More than 30 years after raping three women, Jerry Lee Brooks, 63, has been convicted in connection with the attacks. Brooks entered a guilty plea November 7, 2013, in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Robert C. Ervin, Superior Court Judge.

Brooks pled guilty to three counts of first-degree rape. Judge Ervin sentenced him to life in prison.

In March, August and September of 1979, three Charlotte women were raped at knifepoint by a man wearing a ski mask. In two of the cases, he entered the home through an unlocked door while the occupants were away, waited until the women returned and then raped them. In a third case, he entered a home, found the resident inside and raped her.

In 1979, he was widely known as the "ski mask rapist."

The investigation into the series of rapes went cold until 2012, when the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit connected Brooks to the crimes. Brooks' DNA had been entered in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a national DNA database, following his release from federal prison in 2005 for bank robbery. Using CODIS, investigators found that Brooks' DNA matched DNA evidence collected at each of the scenes of the 1979 rapes. Brooks was then arrested in South Carolina.

The case was scheduled for trial on November 12, 2013. But after speaking with the victims, the District Attorney's Office allowed Brooks to plead guilty so that the victims would not have to relive their assaults at trial. District Attorney Andrew Murray and his prosecutors are proud to work with the Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit to seek out justice for sexual offenders and provide closure to victims.

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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Jerry Lee Brooks