

NEWS RELEASE

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Man pleads guilty mid-trial in domestic violence rape case

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Following powerful testimony from a rape survivor and her young son who witnessed part of the assault, a sex offender pled guilty as charged during the latest trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team. This trial, as well as another trial, were held November 12-19, 2019, before The Honorable George C. Bell and The Honorable Donnie Hoover, Superior Court Judges. Court was not held on November 11, 2019, in observance of Veterans Day.

Randy Bernard Ashford, 35, was called for trial for 1) second-degree rape, 2) second-degree sexual offense and 3) second-degree kidnapping. After the testimony of several witnesses, including the survivor and her 7-year-old son, Ashford decided to plead guilty as charged with no plea arrangement from the State. Judge Bell sentenced Ashford to 96-176 months in prison. Upon his release from prison, Ashford must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. The survivor ended her dating relationship with Ashford after he strangled her in July 2016. She asked him to move out of their home, and she changed the locks. Two months later, she was awoken by Ashford knocking on her window and her front door. When she went to the door, Ashford asked if he could come in and offered to take care of her two children while she went to work that day rather than paying for a babysitter. Once she let him in, Ashford cornered her in her bedroom, threw her to the ground and sexually assaulted her. The victim's oldest son came to the bedroom after hearing his mother yelling for help. Ashford told the child to go back to his room. When the sexual assault ended, Ashford allowed the victim to leave after she told him she would not call the police and that she was going to go work. The survivor dropped her children off at their babysitter's home and drove herself to the hospital, where she reported the sexual assault. Ashford was arrested in South Carolina more than a week later.

Alexander Kaloudis, 34, was tried for 1) assault by strangulation, 2) assault on a female and 3) communicating threats. The jury found him *guilty* of assault on a female and the lesser-included offense of simple assault. The jury found him *not guilty* of communicating threats. Judge Hoover sentenced Kaloudis to 75 days in the Mecklenburg County Jail; that sentence was suspended pending his successful completion of 24 months of supervised probation. As conditions of his probation, he must complete a certified intervention program for batterers and undergo a mental health and substance abuse assessment.

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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