

NEWS RELEASE

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Man sentenced to at least 54 years after jury convicts him of statutory rape

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A man who raped a 14-year-old girl was sentenced today to at least 54 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of multiple sex crimes. Titus Edward Smith's trial, which began August 24, 2021, was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable George C. Bell, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team tried Smith, 44, for 1) first-degree statutory rape of a child, 2) first-degree sex offense with a child, and 3) indecent liberties with a child. The jury deliberated for less than 20 minutes before finding him *guilty* as charged. Today, Judge Bell sentenced Smith to consecutive sentences of 317-441 months, 317-441 months, and 21-35 months in prison, totaling a minimum prison term of 54 years. He was also ordered to register as a sex offender at the completion of his prison sentence.

In 2017, the 14-year-old victim came home from school with a male friend. Her mother was at work. Smith, who lived with the family, returned to the home and discovered the victim and her friend. The boy left, and the victim was afraid she was going to be in trouble for having him over while her mother was gone. Taking advantage of the opportunity to exert his power and control over her, Smith then sexually assaulted the victim. When he was done, he said, "Keep this our little secret. Pinky promise." Then, he left.

The victim immediately called her friend, and he contacted the victim's mother. The police were called. They quickly secured a sexual assault exam at a hospital, which discovered DNA evidence that was later matched to Smith.

At trial, the now 19-year-old survivor told her story, bravely confronting her rapist. Her friend, who now serves in the U.S. Air Force, flew from his post to Charlotte to testify.

The District Attorney's Office expresses our gratitude to the survivor, her friend, and all the investigators who secured justice and protected the community.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, follow @CharMeckDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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