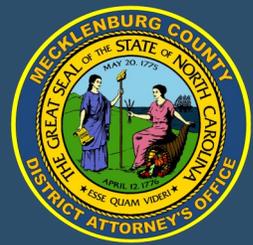




FROM THE DESK OF DA MERRIWEATHER



Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office

The District Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of criminal offenses in Mecklenburg County. Each month, this newsletter provides information about court happenings, initiatives being used to combat crime, the DA's work in the community, and more.

PREVENTION

We all play a role in preventing child abuse

Some of the most heartbreaking cases our office encounters are those of children who have suffered physical or sexual abuse.

Those children are the reason why the DA's Office is involved in a community-wide campaign each April to spread the word about prevention strategies and encourage everyone to take an active role in protecting our children and supporting families.

Everyone in North Carolina is a mandatory reporter of child abuse and neglect. According to state law, we all have a legal responsibility to make a report if we suspect a child is being abused or neglected. To make a report, call Mecklenburg County's 24-hour hotline: 980-31-HELPS (980-314-3577). If a child is in immediate danger, always call 911. Abuse can be prevented, and everyone — whether you are a parent or not — can make a difference.

Offer to help a stressed family with chores. Lend a listening ear to a parent. Volunteer with an organization that serves children or families. Let the children in your life know you are someone they can come to with things that concern or confuse them.

All parents need support, and we are fortunate that there are many resources available for parents in our community. [Click here](#) for information about several local parenting programs and classes.

This month, the DA's Special Victims Team joined fellow advocates in "planting" a pinwheel garden. Pinwheels are used nationally as symbols of child abuse awareness, and you may see the pinwheel gardens popping up across the community this month. Visit www.meck4kids.org to learn about the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team's campaign and how you can get involved.



IN COURT

One of DA Merriweather's 2022 goals is to lead the justice system to a full rebound from the pandemic, and we are hopeful the courts will soon take steps to reopen more courtrooms for trials in both District and Superior Court. In the meantime, our prosecution teams are utilizing all available trial time. This month, our Homicide, Violent Crimes, and Felony Crimes Team have been trying cases in the two courtrooms available for felony cases.

SURVIVORS

DA Merriweather had the honor of joining community partners in giving N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein a tour of the [Survivor Resource Center](#), which opened last year as the first phase in our community's journey toward a full-fledged [Family Justice Center](#) to serve survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and more. While visiting, AG Stein [announced new training](#) to ensure our state has more Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) in hospitals to care for survivors of sexual assault. He also took the opportunity to present the N.C. Dogwood Award to DA Merriweather for his advocacy for justice.



FAQ: How do I get my record expunged?

N.C. law allows people to remove certain charges or convictions from their record in a process known as expunction or expungement. State statutes identify the criteria that must be met to qualify, and a petition must be filed in the jurisdiction where the charge/conviction occurred. Anyone seeking such action must provide a copy of their petition to the DA's Office, however, expunctions are not approved or denied by this office. [Click here](#) to learn more about the law, eligibility requirements, and where you can find the necessary forms to file a petition for expunction.

Visit www.charmeckda.com for the latest news, information about the courts and more. Follow @charmeckda on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

