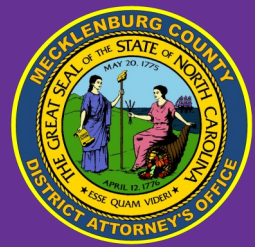




# FROM THE DESK OF DA MERRIWEATHER

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.



## Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office

### AWARENESS

#### Ending the cycle of domestic violence

This October newsletter has turned purple in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time when we should reflect on what each and every one of us can do to stop the cycle of abuse in our community.

Nationally, [one in four women and one in nine men](#) experience severe physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking at the hands of an intimate partner. Mecklenburg County is not immune.

Within the last month, the DA's Felony Special Victims Team convicted a domestic violence offender for shooting his ex-girlfriend, a CATS bus driver, while she was on the job. T.B. Moss was sentenced to a total of 186-245 months in prison after pleading guilty to assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The survivor, who had left an abusive relationship with Moss, had finished a bus route and pulled into the Charlotte Transportation Center when Moss walked around the back of the bus, pulled out a pistol, and shot her several times. As a result of her injuries, she underwent 18 surgeries but survived with the support of her family, friends, coworkers, and community.

To end the cycle of domestic violence, survivors need a great deal of support, particularly when an abuser controls a family's finances or has cut off relationships with family and friends. Fortunately, there is a network of advocates, including [your District Attorney's Office](#), working in Mecklenburg County to establish a local family justice center, a one-stop location that would bring resources under one roof for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. This family justice center, known as [The Umbrella Center](#), will provide wrap-around services for survivors and make our community a safer place. Thanks to Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, and private donors, who have all committed to the project, we are getting closer and closer to making The Umbrella Center a reality for survivors and their families.



### HOW TO HELP

Everyone can play a role in ending domestic violence in our community. Here is how you can help:

- If you suspect a friend or family member is being abused, reach out and offer your support. Understand that, on average, it takes domestic violence survivors seven times to leave the relationship for good.
- Talk to young people in your life about [teen dating violence](#) and healthy relationships.
- If you witness physical abuse, call 911 immediately.
- Make a donation to or volunteer your time with a local organization that serves survivors and their families. Pictured is DA Spencer Merriweather volunteering at [Safe Alliance's shelter!](#)



### HALLOWEEN

Let's keep Halloween eerie and safe! Before our community's children head out trick-or-treating later this month, take the time to review [Halloween safety tips](#). Always walk with young children on their neighborhood route, and talk with them about what to do if they get lost. Always use sidewalks and crosswalks whenever possible. Drivers should slow down and use caution in residential areas.

### FAQ: Why do we need a family justice center?

On average, a survivor of abuse must go to nine different locations, fill out 37 pages of paperwork, and repeat their story 27 times to receive critical services needed to leave an abusive relationship. As a result, about 80 percent of survivors walk away without obtaining healing, legal, and supportive services. The family justice center model, which has been replicated more than 130 times internationally, brings those services together at one location so that survivors only have to undergo one trauma-informed intake process. [Documented results](#) of family justice centers include increased victim safety, improved offender prosecution outcomes, reduced homicides, increased efficiency, and more.

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