

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Man sentenced to life in prison after jury convicts him of murdering his parents**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The man who, along with his girlfriend, murdered his parents, kidnapped his then 11-year-old niece and fled to Washington D.C. was found guilty of murder, kidnapping and multiple other offenses.

The trial, which began on July 31, 2023 ended today with the jury's guilty verdict. The Honorable Karen Eady-Williams, Superior Court Judge, presided over the trial.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Curtis Atkinson Jr., 43, for 1) two counts of first degree murder, 2) first degree kidnapping, 3) conspiracy to commit first degree murder, 4) conspiracy to commit first degree kidnapping and 5) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Eady-Williams then sentenced Atkinson to two consecutive sentences of *life in prison without the possibility for parole* for the murder charges and 404 - 532 months, the maximum allowable sentences, for the remaining charges. Those sentences will run consecutive to the life sentences.

On March 30, 2017, Atkinson and his co-defendant, Nikkia Cooper, went to the home of Atkinson's parents, Curtis Atkinson, Sr. and Ruby Atkinson, after being evicted from their own home earlier that day. After an argument between the parties, the defendant and Cooper killed the defendant's parents. The defendant's niece was present in the home at the time.

The defendant and Cooper stayed in the house with the defendant's niece until April 2, 2017, when they kidnapped the niece and fled to Washington, D.C. There, they were apprehended that night and the niece was rescued by officers with the Metropolitan Police Department.

Cooper previously pled guilty in connection with the crimes.

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

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