

NEWS RELEASE

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III
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Special Victims Team convicts 1 at trial; 3 others plead guilty

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team convicted four defendants during a recent trial session. One defendant was found guilty of multiple sex offenses against a child. Another three defendants entered guilty pleas. The proceedings were held before The Honorable Donald R. Cureton, Jr., The Honorable Louis A. Trosch, Jr., and The Honorable Matthew J. Osman, Superior Court Judges.

Darrell Purser, 39, was tried for 1) three counts of statutory sex offense with a child by an adult, 2) statutory rape of a child by an adult, 3) three counts of statutory sex offense with a person who is fifteen years old or younger, and 4) four counts of indecent liberties with a child. Purser exercised his right to a bench trial. Judge Cureton found Purser *guilty* as charged and sentenced him to 25-35 years in prison. Upon his release from prison, Purser will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Just as prosecutors were set to begin the trial of Antwan Kirkland, 50, he pled guilty to multiple charges associated with the sexual assaults of two women in 1992. Kirkland was charged with 1) two counts of first-degree rape, 2) two counts of first-degree kidnapping, 3) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, and 4) three counts of first-degree sex offense. Nearly thirty years after the assaults, DNA evidence revealed Kirkland was one of several men who raped the two victims in a wooded area of north Charlotte. Both survivors were prepared to testify and the DA's Office is incredibly grateful for their bravery and strength. Kirkland pled guilty to one count of first-degree kidnapping and two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon. Judge Trosch sentenced Kirkland to 40 years in prison. Based on the sentencing laws in effect at the time these crimes were committed, Kirkland will serve approximately 20 years in prison. No other suspects have been charged.

Dana Nelson, 39, pled guilty to 1) misdemeanor stalking and 2) domestic violence protective order violation. Judge Osman sentenced Nelson to a 60 day suspended sentence with 18 months supervised probation and anger management with continued psychiatric treatment. She was also ordered to have no contact with the victim.

Reginald Oliver, 58, pled guilty to attempted second-degree rape. Judge Osman sentenced Oliver to 38-106 months in prison. He was also ordered to have no contact with the victim.

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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