

NEWS RELEASE

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Testimony of two survivors results in conviction of child rapist

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Two survivors bravely took the stand to testify about the sexual abuse they suffered as children during a recent trial session led by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Special Victims Team. Their testimony led a jury to find their abuser guilty, and he was sentenced to at least 68 years in prison.

The trial, which began September 9, 2024, was held in courtroom 5170 before the Honorable David H. Strickland, Superior Court Judge.

Dennis Pegues, 56, was tried for 1) two counts of first-degree rape, 2) statutory rape, 3) two counts of sexual activity in a parental role, and 4) first-degree sexual offense. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. Judge Strickland sentenced Pegues to 820-1,031 months in prison.

On multiple occasions from 1998-2004, Pegues took advantage of a position of trust and sexually assaulted one survivor multiple times beginning when she was 7 years old. The survivor testified that the defendant told her, "No one will believe you," if she told anyone about the assaults.

A second survivor testified that when she was 15 years old, she was babysitting at the home where the first survivor lived with the defendant. Prior to the defendant going out for the evening with the other adults, he told her that there was alcohol in the home that was available to her while the adults were out. She drank some of the alcohol and when the adults returned home, the defendant offered to drive her home. On the ride home, the defendant asked her if she wanted to get paid for babysitting. She said she did, and the defendant then took her to a strange house where he took her to a bedroom and raped her.

Neither woman knew about the other's assaults by the defendant until 2018. Over the years, from 1998-2018, both girls - then later as women - slowly disclosed the assaults to various common family members, but it took years until those family members learned what both had endured. It wasn't until 2018 when one family member who learned about both advocated for them to make a report to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

The District Attorney's Office commends both women for their courage. Their testimony was crucial and secured a conviction that protects the entire community.

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

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