

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Man who kidnapped, molested child pleads guilty mid-trial

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – After hearing witnesses testify against him during trial, Cristino Leon, 42, pled guilty to charges of kidnapping and indecent liberties with a child. The proceedings were held in courtroom 5150 before The Honorable Gregory R. Hayes, Superior Court Judge.

Leon had previously pled not guilty, and the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Crimes Against Persons Team called the case for trial on February 23, 2015. Following testimony from several witnesses in the case, Leon indicated to the court on February 27, 2015, that he wanted to enter a guilty plea. He pled guilty as charged to 1) two counts of first-degree kidnapping and 2) indecent liberties with a child. Judge Hayes sentenced Leon to three prison terms: 73-148 months in prison, 73-100 months in prison and 16-29 months in prison. Those sentences are to run consecutively, totaling a minimum of 13 ½ years in prison.



Cristino Leon

In May 2012, Leon tied up an adult relative where they lived at a Charlotte apartment complex. He then also tied up a 12-year-old girl, who was also a family member, and put her in his car and drove away. Later that evening, the girl was able to escape in Jefferson County, Georgia. Leon fled and was later arrested in South Carolina. After the child was brought back to Charlotte and reunited with her family, she told police that Leon had molested her a few weeks prior to the kidnapping.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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