

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

April 21, 2016

DA Murray joins child advocates, police to build coordinated response to child abuse

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – District Attorney Andrew Murray signed a collaborative agreement today to ensure that child victims of abuse receive comprehensive investigative and treatment services in Mecklenburg County.

Led by [Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center](#), a team of partner agencies worked together to create the Memorandum of Understanding, which serves as a working agreement regarding the investigation, assessment and intervention in incidents of suspected child abuse.

The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a coordinated investigative response for incidents in which an allegation of child sexual abuse is made or a child experiences violence that results in a criminal investigation. Representatives from participating agencies – local organizations that investigate and prosecute cases of child abuse, as well as those that provide treatment and counseling for child victims – met at the District Attorney's Office today to sign the Memorandum.

“The impact of abuse on children is devastating, and it’s critical that my office and others working with these children are using procedures that don’t further victimize them,” says District Attorney Murray. “This agreement provides a consistent and effective framework that allows all of us to do our work in a manner that is in the best interest of children.”

Mecklenburg County has a multidisciplinary team that regularly meets to discuss individual child abuse cases and work to ensure each child is being served to the best of the community’s abilities. Mecklenburg County prosecutors are members of this team.

The partner agencies signing the Memorandum of Understanding include: Alexander Youth Network, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Police Department, the Cornelius Police Department, the Davidson Police Department, the Huntersville Police Department, Carolinas Healthcare System, Levine Children’s Hospital Pediatric Resource Center, the Matthews Police Department, the Mecklenburg County



DA Andrew Murray joined local law enforcement leaders and child advocates to sign the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the investigation, assessment and intervention in child abuse cases.

Department of Social Services, Youth and Family Services, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office, the Mint Hill Police Department, Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center, the Pineville Police Department, Safe Alliance, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and Thompson Child and Family Focus.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The District Attorney's Office is a member of the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team, which is working this month to raise awareness of this critical issue. For more information and resources, visit www.meck4kids.org.

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.

// End //

