

NEWS RELEASE

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Charlotte man convicted of child abduction, sentenced to 34 years in prison

Kareem Kirk, 38, was tried before a Mecklenburg County jury beginning on Monday, April 25, 2011. The Honorable Christopher Collier, Superior Court Judge, presided over the trial. The jury found Kirk *guilty as charged* of (1) four counts of statutory sex offense and (2) abduction of a child. The sex offense charges were consolidated for judgment and the defendant received a sentence of 384-470 months in prison. Kirk received an additional sentence of 24-29 months in prison for the child abduction charge. Those sentences are to run consecutive to one another, resulting in a total minimum sentence of 34 years and total maximum sentence of 41 ½ years in North Carolina prison.



Kareem Kirk

On July 3, 2007, a 15-year old child was reported missing from Springfield, Massachusetts. During an investigation into her disappearance, police officers searched the child's computer and found e-mails indicating that Kareem Kirk had been pursuing an online relationship with the child for the two years prior to her disappearance. Evidence showed that on the date that the child disappeared, Kirk had driven 800 miles to Massachusetts to pick her up and bring her back to Charlotte. The child was found by the police four days later, sitting on a park bench in the University Area. The child reunited with her family in Massachusetts and Kirk was arrested for her abduction. The victim later told police that the defendant had engaged her in oral and anal sex while she was here in Charlotte.

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