



Riverside County District Attorney

# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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## JUDGE ORDERS CHARGED SERIAL RAPIST TO STAND TRIAL

MURRIETA – Today, Jan. 18, 2013, a Riverside County Superior Court judge ordered a Murrieta man to stand trial on 16 felonies in connection with the rape of five women and the attempted sexual assault of a sixth.

Melbrough Williams Jr., DOB: 9-1-67, is charged with seven counts of rape by force, four counts of robbery, two counts of oral copulation by force and one count each of kidnap for rape, assault with intent to commit rape, and sexual penetration by a foreign object. Also included are allegations of sexual offense of a kidnapped victim, sexual offenses with more than one victim, and personal use of a firearm.

After listening to two days of testimony at a preliminary hearing, Judge Michael Rushton found there was enough evidence for Williams to stand trial. Williams was ordered to return to court for an information arraignment on Feb. 1, 2013, in Dept. S201 at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta. There was also a bail review hearing held Friday at the request of the defense, but Rushton denied their motion to reduce Williams' bail. He is currently being held at the Robert Presley Detention Center in Riverside in lieu of \$10 million bail.

If convicted as now charged, Williams faces multiple life sentences.

One of the victims was raped in October 2002 in the Lake Elsinore area after being kidnapped from a location in Orange County. Three other women were raped in the Temecula area in May, June and July 2012, another woman was raped in Ontario in San Bernardino County in January 2012 and a sixth was the victim of an attempted sexual assault in Temecula in July 2012.

The victims in this case all were working as prostitutes at the time of the crimes. Williams reportedly met the five most recent victims through an Internet website. Williams reportedly picked up the 2002 victim on a street in Orange County.

Subsequent to an investigation by Temecula police, Williams was arrested in the city of Costa Mesa on July 27, 2012.

The investigation into this case and any other potential victims is ongoing.

The case, SWF1202977, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sean Crandell of the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit.