

## Murder Plea Yields 14 to 17 Year Sentence

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Christopher Warren Meade was sentenced last week to a term of 14 to 17 ½ years in prison for the murder of a Seven Devils woman in late 2009. Judge Gary Gavenus presided over session as the plea of guilty was entered in the count of second degree murder in the murder of Deana Schermerhorn, who was last seen alive at the couple's Seven Devils home November 7th of 2009. As the search mounted, Meade was nowhere to be found, but Schermerhorn's 4-year old son turned up at a family member's home as Meade fled into Mexico. Her body was found in December of 2009, buried in a shallow grave near the couple's home in Seven Devils. After the case was aired on "America's Most Wanted," calls led investigators to Mexico where the arrest was made. Meade was turned over to US authorities in McAllen, Texas, in December of 2010, and was extradited to Watauga County. Family members of Deana Schmerhorn were in court last Tuesday when the plea was entered and the sentencing handed down, according to court officials, and the court documents show they will be notified of any change in his status, but that cannot come until after the 14 years are served. Christopher Warren Meade, now 29, was given credit for the 20 months in custody against his sentence and is now in the NC prison system.