

Overturned Conviction to Lead to Release of Man in Avery-Mitchell Prison

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A North Carolina man sentenced to life in prison in 1992 has been ordered released from the Avery-Mitchell Correctional Center after a judge overturned his conviction for sexual offense Tuesday. The request to release Jonathan Scott Pierpoint came from Duke Law School's Wrongful Conviction Clinic, and Clinic officials say Superior Court Judge Charles P. Ginn agreed Tuesday, ordering the conviction for first-degree sexual offense overturned and the charges dismissed. Madison County District Attorney Jerry Wilson didn't oppose the motion, the case from his jurisdiction. Duke officials say a child was 8 years old when he accused Pierpoint, but he recanted his story about five years later. Correction Department officials said Pierpoint was still being held yesterday at the Avery-Mitchell Correctional Center.