

Speaker 1:

Assault charges at UNCW or anywhere can range from simple assault to assault on a female, this is male female, up to assault with a deadly weapon, assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, assault with a deadly weapon intent to kill inflicting serious injury. So there's a gamut. There's a whole list of assaults that range from low-level misdemeanors all the way up to very serious felonies. So it just depends on the nature and the facts. But the tricky thing here is, I could hit you or not hit you, and you could go to the magistrate's office and say, "She hit me." And I could get charged with assault.

So you can self-initiate it. You can go to the magistrate's office and do it yourself, which happens a lot. A lot of times people get falsely accused for whatever reason and then you try those cases. Those are the cases you're like, "I wasn't there, I didn't do it. This person is just out for revenge, wants to get me out of the house," whatever the motive. Sometimes there's motivations that people will actually go to the magistrate's office and tell them something that's not true. And the magistrates, they're doing their jobs, someone says they were assaulted, maybe they show them a scratch or something. So they're issuing a process for someone to get arrested or cited for that. So that does happen.

The other way is that police are called to the scene of some place where there has been assault. And depending on the nature of the assault, they will most likely arrest. Especially if someone's been injured, they're going to arrest the other person.

Assault charges, generally if convicted, you're obviously going to have a criminal record and it can range anywhere from community punishment, meaning having to do some community service kind of thing or it could be a probationary type sentence where you have to see an probation officer once a month, pay court costs, fines, fees, and probation fees. It could be jail time. It could be a mix of those things, depending on the severity of the assault. It also depends on injuries. It depends on a person's prior record level, if they have assaulted behavior in the past. It depends on how a whole host of things.