

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
FIRST DEPARTMENT

People v. Acosta

2026 NY Slip Op 00324 (N.Y. Ct. App. 2026) · No. Ind. No. 71886/23; Appeal No. 5657; Case No. 2024-03381
· Decided January 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, First Department modified the defendant's judgment by striking the condition of probation requiring payment of mandatory surcharges and court fees, and otherwise affirmed. The court held that the defendant's waiver of appellate rights did not foreclose his challenge to that probation condition, which was not reasonably related to rehabilitation given his indigence and circumstances. The court declined to review unpreserved constitutional challenges to other probation conditions and held that the issue concerning a certificate of relief from disabilities was not properly appealable.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, First Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Moulton, J.P.; Mendez, J.; Rodriguez, J.; Rosado, J.; Hagler, J.
JURISDICTION	New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department
DECIDED	January 27, 2026
DOCKET	Ind. No. 71886/23; Appeal No. 5657; Case No. 2024-03381
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed from a judgment of the Supreme Court, Bronx County, entered after his guilty plea and sentencing to four years of probation. The Appellate Division modified the judgment by striking the probation condition requiring payment of the mandatory surcharge and court fees, and otherwise affirmed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A sentence will not be reduced absent a basis for doing so; unpreserved constitutional challenges may be reviewed only in the court's interest-of-justice jurisdiction. Whether a probation condition is reasonably necessary and related to rehabilitation is determined in light of the particular circumstances of the defendant's case.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion of the Appellate Division, First Department

PARTIES

Anolvis Acosta, Defendant-Appellant v. The People of the State of New York, Respondent

TOPICS

probation

appellate procedure

preservation of error

first amendment

criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal procedure

appellate procedure

constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether defendant's valid waiver of the right to appeal foreclosed review of his excessive-sentence claim.
2. Whether requiring an indigent first-time offender with sporadic income to pay mandatory surcharges and court fees as a condition of probation was reasonably necessary and related to rehabilitation.
3. Whether defendant's constitutional vagueness, overbreadth, and First Amendment challenges to certain probation conditions were preserved for appellate review.
4. Whether the deferred issuance of a certificate of relief from disabilities was part of the criminal judgment and appealable from the judgment of conviction.

HOLDINGS

1. Defendant's valid waiver of the right to appeal foreclosed appellate review of his claim that the sentence was excessive.
2. The condition requiring defendant to pay \$375 in mandatory surcharges and court fees as a condition of probation was stricken because, under the circumstances, it was not reasonably necessary to ensure a law-abiding life and was not reasonably related to rehabilitation.
3. Defendant's constitutional challenges to probation conditions 7 and 24 were unpreserved because they were raised for the first time on appeal, and the court declined to review them in the interest of justice.
4. The deferred issuance of the certificate of relief from disabilities was not properly before the Appellate Division because it was not part of the judgment and therefore was not appealable from the judgment of conviction.

KEY QUOTATIONS

*"the requirement that he pay a total of \$375 in surcharges and fees as a condition of probation "will not assist in ensuring [that] he leads a law-abiding life and is not reasonably related to his rehabilitation"" ([*1])*

*"This constitutes the decision and order of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department." ([*1])*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Defendant pleaded guilty to attempted criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree and received four years of probation. He was indigent, a first-time offender, had only sporadic income, and was otherwise supported by his mother. His probation required payment of \$375 in mandatory surcharges and court fees, as well as conditions concerning habits, associations, and gang paraphernalia or affiliation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Supreme Court, Bronx County, convicted defendant upon his guilty plea to attempted criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree and sentenced him to four years of probation. Defendant appealed, challenging the sentence, probation conditions, and the deferral of a certificate of relief from disabilities. The Appellate Division struck the surcharge-and-fee condition, declined to review unpreserved constitutional challenges in the interest of justice, and held that the certificate-of-relief issue was not appealable from the judgment.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- People v. Thomas, 34 NY3d 545, 559 [2019], cert denied 589 US —, 140 S Ct 2634 [2020]
- People v. Arias, 210 AD3d 593, 594 [1st Dept 2022], lv denied 39 NY3d 1109 [2023]
- People v. Hale, 93 NY2d 454, 461 [1999]
- People v. Percy, 234 AD3d 619, 620 [1st Dept 2025]
- People v. Cabrera, 41 NY3d 35, 43 [2023]
- People v. Rivera, 242 AD3d 421, 422 [1st Dept 2025]
- People v. Lowndes, 239 AD3d 574, 575 [1st Dept 2025], lv denied 44 NY3d 1012 [2025]
- People v. Nieves, 2 NY3d 310, 314-315 [2004]

OPINION

People v. Acosta 2026 NY Slip Op 00324

PER CURIAM.

People v Acosta (2026 NY Slip Op 00324) People v Acosta 2026 NY Slip Op 00324 Decided on January 27, 2026 Appellate Division, First Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Decided and Entered: January 27, 2026 Before: Moulton, J.P., Mendez, Rodriguez, Rosado, Hagler, JJ. Ind. No. 71886/23|Appeal No. 5657|Case No. 2024-03381| [*1]The People of the State of New York, Respondent, v Anolvis Acosta, Defendant-Appellant. Jenay Nurse Guilford, Center for Appellate Litigation, New York (Leanna J. Duncan of counsel), for appellant. Darcel D. Clark, District Attorney, Bronx (John Cheever of counsel), for respondent. Judgment, Supreme Court, Bronx County (Ralph A. Fabrizio, J.), rendered May 10, 2024, convicting defendant, upon his plea of guilty, of attempted criminal

possession of a weapon in the second degree, and sentencing him to four years of probation, unanimously modified, on the law, to the extent of striking the condition of probation requiring him to pay the mandatory surcharge and court fees as a condition of his probation, and otherwise affirmed. Defendant validly waived his right to appeal, which forecloses review of his claim that his sentence is excessive (see *People v Thomas* , 34 NY3d 545 , 559 [2019], cert denied 589 US —, 140 S Ct 2634 [2020]). In any event, we perceive no basis for reducing his sentence . Defendant's challenge to the condition of probation requiring that he pay the mandatory surcharge and court fees survives his waiver of the right to appeal (see *People v Arias* , 210 AD3d 593, 594 [1st Dept 2022], lv denied 39 NY3d 1109 [2023]). Penal Law § 65.10(1) provides that "[t]he conditions of probation . . . shall be such as the court, in its discretion, deems reasonably necessary to [e]nsure that the defendant will lead a law-abiding life or to assist him in doing so." Penal Law § 65.10(2)(l) allows the court to impose "any other conditions reasonably related to his rehabilitation." In determining whether a condition is reasonably necessary and related to a defendant's rehabilitation, the Court must consider the particular circumstances of a defendant's case (see *People v Hale* , 93 NY2d 454, 461 [1999]). Defendant, who is indigent and a first-time offender, has only sporadic income and otherwise has been supported by his mother. Under these circumstances, the requirement that he pay a total of \$375 in surcharges and fees as a condition of probation "will not assist in ensuring [that] he leads a law-abiding life and is not reasonably related to his rehabilitation" (*People v Percy* , 234 AD3d 619 , 620 [1st Dept 2025]). Accordingly, that condition is stricken. We note that the People do not oppose this relief. Defendant raises, for the first time here, constitutional challenges to condition 7 of his probation, requiring him to "[a]void injurious or vicious habits; refrain from frequenting unlawful or disreputable places; and . . . not consort with disreputable people," and to condition 24, requiring him to "[r]efrain from wearing or displaying gang paraphernalia and having any association with a gang or members of a gang," as vague and overbroad and as violating his First Amendment rights. As defendant raises objections to these conditions for the first time on appeal, his constitutional challenges are unpreserved (see *People v Cabrera* , 41 NY3d 35 , 43 [2023]; *People v Rivera* , 242 AD3d 421 , 422 [1st Dept 2025]; *People v Lowndes* , 239 AD3d 574 , 575 [1st Dept 2025], lv denied 44 NY3d 1012 [2025]) , and we decline to review them in the interest of justice. As an alternative holding, we find them unavailing. Defendant's claim that the court erred in denying his request for a certificate of relief from disabilities (CRD) is not properly before this Court. The court's providently deferred issuance of the CRD until defendant's successful completion of probation is not part of the judgment, and thus is not appealable. Further, Correction Law § 702, governing the issuance of a CRD, does not contain language stating that a CRD certificate should be issued "upon conviction," indicating that the Legislature did not intend for a CRD to be considered "part of the final adjudication of the criminal action" (compare *People v Nieves* , 2 NY3d 310, 314-315 [2004] [orders of protection, entered "[u]pon conviction," are part of the "final adjudication" and may be challenged in an appeal from the judgment of conviction]). THIS CONSTITUTES THE DECISION AND ORDER

OF THE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT. ENTERED:
January 27, 2026

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/new-york-supreme-court-appellate-division-first-department-supreme-court-of-the-state-of-new-york-ap/2026/people-v-acosta-41ujmdym>