

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

People v. Lincoln

2025 NY Slip Op 07025 · No. 2024-03118 · Decided December 17, 2025

SUMMARY

The New York Appellate Division, Second Department, affirmed Abraham J. Lincoln's convictions for two counts of criminal contempt in the second degree. The court held that the approximately nine-month delay before arrest did not violate due process and that the People's certificate of compliance and statement of readiness satisfied the statutory speedy-trial requirements under CPL 30.30(1)(a).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Colleen D. Duffy, J.P.; Deborah A. Dowling, J.; Barry E. Warhit, J.; Susan Quirk, J.
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Department
DECIDED	December 17, 2025
DOCKET	2024-03118
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed from a County Court judgment entered after a jury trial convicting him of two counts of criminal contempt in the second degree and imposing sentence.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Appellate Division reviewed whether the County Court properly denied the defendant's motions to dismiss the indictment on due-process and statutory speedy-trial grounds.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Abraham J. Lincoln v. The People of the State of New York

TOPICS

speedy trial

due process

criminal procedure

appellate procedure

standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal procedure

appellate procedure

constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the approximately nine-month delay between the commission of the crimes and the defendant's arrest violated the defendant's state constitutional due-process right to prompt prosecution.
2. Whether the indictment should have been dismissed under CPL 30.30(1)(a) because the People violated the defendant's statutory right to a speedy trial.
3. Whether the People's November 2022 certificate of compliance and statement of readiness were proper or illusory.
4. Whether the defendant's challenge to the timeliness of the People's opposition to his dismissal motion was properly before the Appellate Division.

HOLDINGS

1. The approximately nine-month delay did not violate due process because the People established good cause, including the defendant's evasion of law enforcement, and the delay was outweighed by the nature of the crimes and the absence of identified prejudice.
2. The County Court properly denied the defendant's statutory speedy-trial dismissal motion because the People established that their November 2022 certificate of compliance was proper and their statement of readiness was not illusory.
3. The defendant's contention concerning the timeliness of the People's opposition was not properly before the Appellate Division.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"[A]n unjustified delay in prosecution will deprive a defendant of the State constitutional right to due process" ([*1])

"a determination made in good faith to defer commencement of the prosecution for further investigation or for other sufficient reasons, will not deprive the defendant of due process of law even though the delay may cause some prejudice to the defense" ([*1])

"Where there has been extended delay, the People have the burden to establish good cause" ([*1])

"The Court of Appeals has articulated the following factors to consider when determining whether a defendant's right to a speedy trial or due process right to prompt prosecution has been violated: (1) the extent of the delay, (2) the reason for the delay, (3) the nature of the underlying charge, (4) whether there has been an extended period of pretrial incarceration, and (5) whether there is any indication that the defense has been prejudiced by the delay" ([*1])

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The defendant was charged in a 36-count indictment arising from crimes including burglary and criminal contempt and was ultimately convicted of two counts of criminal contempt in the second degree. Approximately nine months elapsed between the commission of the crimes and the defendant's arrest, during which the People showed that the defendant evaded law enforcement. The court found no identified prejudice to the defense from the delay.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The defendant was charged in a 36-count indictment with multiple crimes, including burglary and criminal contempt. After a jury trial, he was convicted of two counts of criminal contempt in the second degree. The County Court, Suffolk County, denied his motions to dismiss the indictment based on preprosecution delay and statutory speedy-trial grounds, and the Appellate Division affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- People v. Metellus, 157 AD3d 821, 822
- People v. Decker, 13 NY3d 12, 14-15
- People v. Singer, 44 NY2d 241, 254
- People v. Clark, 180 AD3d 925, 926
- People v. Mattison, 162 AD3d 905, 906
- People v. Taranovich, 37 NY2d 442, 445
- People v. Barba, 135 AD3d 950, 951
- People v. Gardner, 204 AD3d 1039, 1041
- People v. George, 199 AD3d 1064, 1067
- People v. Macaluso, 230 AD3d 1158, 1160

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

People v Lincoln (2025 NY Slip Op 07025) People v Lincoln 2025 NY Slip Op 07025 Decided on December 17, 2025 Appellate Division, Second 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 on December 17, 2025 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department COLLEEN D. DUFFY, J.P.

DEBORAH A. DOWLING BARRY E. WARHIT SUSAN QUIRK, JJ. 2024-03118 (Ind. No. 72592/22) [*1]The People of the State of New York, respondent, v Abraham J. Lincoln, appellant.

Samantha Chorny, New York, NY, for appellant. Raymond A. Tierney, District Attorney, Riverhead, NY (Shiry Gaash, Marion Tang, and Kerriann Kelly of counsel), for respondent. DECISION & ORDER Appeal by the defendant from a judgment of the County Court, Suffolk County (Steven A. Pilewski, J.), rendered April 17, 2024, convicting him of criminal contempt in the second degree (two counts), upon a jury verdict, and imposing sentence.

ORDERED that the judgment is affirmed. The defendant was charged in a 36-count indictment with, among other crimes, burglary in the first degree, burglary in the second degree, criminal contempt in the first degree, and criminal contempt in the second degree. Following a jury trial, the defendant was convicted of two counts of criminal contempt in the second degree.

The defendant appeals. Contrary to the defendant's contention, the County Court properly denied that branch of his motion which was to dismiss the indictment on the ground that he was deprived of due process by the People's unjustified delay in prosecution. "[A]n unjustified delay in prosecution will deprive a defendant of the State constitutional right to due process" (*People v Metellus*, 157 AD3d 821, 822; see NY Const, art I, § 6; *People v Decker*, 13 NY3d 12, 14).

However, "a determination made in good faith to defer commencement of the prosecution for further investigation or for other sufficient reasons, will not deprive the defendant of due process of law even though the delay may cause some prejudice to the defense" (*People v Singer*, 44 NY2d 241, 254; see *People v Clark*, 180 AD3d 925, 926). "Where there has been extended delay, the People have the burden to establish good cause" (*People v Metellus*, 157 AD3d at 822; see *People v Decker*, 13 NY3d at 14).

"The Court of Appeals has articulated the following factors to consider when determining whether a defendant's right to a speedy trial or due process right to prompt prosecution has been violated: (1) the extent of the delay, (2) the reason for the delay, (3) the nature of the underlying charge, (4) whether there has been an extended period of pretrial incarceration, and (5) whether there is any indication that the defense has been prejudiced by the delay" (*People v Mattison*, 162 AD3d 905, 906; see *People v Decker*, 13 NY3d at 14-15; *People v Taranovich*, 37 NY2d 442, 445).

Here, the People demonstrated good cause for the delay of approximately nine months [*2]between the commission of the crimes and the defendant's arrest, including, inter alia, the defendant's own conduct in evading law enforcement (see *People v Barba*, 135 AD3d 950, 951).

The extent of the delay in prosecution is outweighed by the People's good cause for the delay, the nature of the crimes, and the lack of any prejudice from the delay identified by the defendant. Under the circumstances, we are satisfied that the defendant was not deprived of his due process right to prompt prosecution (see *People v Gardner*, 204 AD3d 1039, 1041; *People v George*, 199 AD3d 1064, 1067; *People v Mattison*, 162 AD3d at 906).

The County Court also properly denied that branch of the defendant's motion which was pursuant to CPL 30.30(1)(a) to dismiss the indictment on the ground that he was deprived of his statutory right to a speedy trial. Contrary to the defendant's contention, the People established that their November 2022 certificate of compliance was proper and their statement of readiness was not illusory (see *People v Macaluso*, 230 AD3d 1158, 1160).

The defendant's contention that the People's opposition to his motion to dismiss the indictment was untimely is not properly before this Court. The defendant's remaining contentions are without merit. DUFFY, J.P., DOWLING, WARHIT and QUIRK, JJ., concur. ENTER: Darrell M. Joseph Clerk of the Court

PER CURIAM.

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DEBORAH A. DOWLING BARRY E. WARHIT SUSAN QUIRK, JJ. 2024-03118 (Ind. No. 72592/22) [*1]The People of the State of New York, respondent, v Abraham J. Lincoln, appellant. Samantha Chorny, New York, NY, for appellant. Raymond A. Tierney, District Attorney, Riverhead, NY (Shiry Gaash, Marion Tang, and Kerriann Kelly of counsel), for respondent. DECISION & ORDER Appeal by the defendant from a judgment of the County Court, Suffolk County (Steven A. Pilewski, J.), rendered April 17, 2024, convicting him of criminal contempt in the second degree (two counts), upon a jury verdict, and imposing sentence.

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