

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

People v. Williams

2026 N.Y. Slip Op. 01884 (4th Dep't 2026) · No. 133 KA 23-00566 · Decided March 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The New York Appellate Division, Fourth Department, unanimously affirmed a judgment convicting Giovanni Williams, upon his guilty plea, of aggravated vehicular homicide. The court concluded that, even assuming the waiver of the right to appeal was invalid, the sentence was not unduly harsh or severe.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Whalen, P.J.; Lindley, J.; Curran, J.; Smith, J.; DelConte, J.
JURISDICTION	New York Appellate Division, Fourth Department
DECIDED	March 27, 2026
DOCKET	133 KA 23-00566
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed from a judgment of the Oneida County Court convicting him upon his plea of guilty of aggravated vehicular homicide. He challenged the validity of his waiver of the right to appeal and the severity of his sentence.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Appellate Division reviewed whether the sentence was unduly harsh or severe; it concluded that the sentence did not warrant modification.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Giovonni Williams v. The People of the State of New York

TOPICS

sentencing

appellate procedure

criminal procedure

plea bargaining

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether defendant's waiver of the right to appeal was valid and precluded appellate review of the sentence.
2. Whether defendant's sentence for aggravated vehicular homicide was unduly harsh or severe.

HOLDINGS

1. Even assuming that defendant's waiver of the right to appeal was invalid and therefore did not preclude review, the court could decide the sentencing challenge on the merits.
2. The sentence was not unduly harsh or severe.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Defendant pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide under Penal Law § 125.14(3). The judgment imposed a sentence that defendant challenged as unduly harsh and severe, and defendant also disputed the validity of his waiver of the right to appeal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Oneida County Court, Robert Bauer, J., rendered judgment on December 23, 2022, after defendant pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide. Defendant appealed to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, which unanimously affirmed the judgment.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- People v. Harrison, 242 A.D.3d 1540, 1541 (4th Dep't 2025)
- People v. Swiderski, 217 A.D.3d 1416, 1417 (4th Dep't 2023)

OPINION

People v. Williams 2026 NY Slip Op 01884

PER CURIAM.

People v Williams (2026 NY Slip Op 01884) People v Williams 2026 NY Slip Op 01884
Decided on March 27, 2026 Appellate Division, Fourth 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 March 27, 2026

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department

PRESENT: WHALEN, P.J., LINDLEY, CURRAN, SMITH, AND DELCONTE,
JJ. 133 KA 23-00566

[*1]THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
RESPONDENT,

v GIOVONNI WILLIAMS, DEFENDANT-APPELLANT.

TINA L. HARTWELL, PUBLIC DEFENDER, UTICA (DAVID A. COOKE OF COUNSEL), FOR DEFENDANT-APPELLANT. TODD C. CARVILLE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, UTICA (MICHAEL A. LABELLA OF COUNSEL), FOR RESPONDENT. Appeal from a judgment of the Oneida County Court (Robert Bauer, J.), rendered December 23, 2022. The judgment convicted defendant upon his plea of guilty of aggravated vehicular homicide. It is hereby ORDERED that the judgment so appealed from is unanimously affirmed. Memorandum: On appeal from a judgment convicting him upon his plea of guilty of aggravated vehicular homicide (Penal Law § 125.14 [3]), defendant contends that his waiver of the right to appeal is invalid and that his sentence is unduly harsh and severe. Even assuming, arguendo, that defendant's waiver of the right to appeal is invalid and therefore does not preclude our review of his challenge to the severity of the sentence (see *People v Harrison* , 242 AD3d 1540 , 1541 [4th Dept 2025]; *People v Swiderski* , 217 AD3d 1416 , 1417 [4th Dept 2023]), we conclude that the sentence is not unduly harsh or severe. Entered: March 27, 2026 Ann Dillon Flynn Clerk of the Court