

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE: April 16, 2026

Defendant admits to lying about gun on stand

Michael Derr, 34, of Liberty Township, on Thursday, April 16, 2026, was sentenced to the maximum three years in prison plus six months in the county jail after he was found guilty earlier by a Trumbull County jury of having weapons while under disability and two counts of domestic violence.



The jury of five men and seven women also found Derr not guilty of two counts of felonious assault after the two-day trial before Common Pleas Judge Ronald J. Rice.

The charges stem from an incident on Nov. 10, 2025, outside the Walmart Super Center in Liberty Township where the mother of Derr's infant son and the infant were in a vehicle that was struck by a car driven by Derr.

At trial, Assistant Prosecutor Michael Burnett and state testimony accused Derr of intentionally ramming the vehicle, while Derr's attorney Aaron Miekle and the defendant stated the incident was an accident.

The gun charge stems from a 40-caliber firearm being found in Derr's vehicle after the incident, and Derr is not allowed to carry a firearm because of a four-year prison sentence for an aggravated burglary conviction with a gun specification in 2013 when Judge Rice sentenced him to four years in prison.

"You obviously have not learned a lesson to stay out of trouble," Rice told Derr as he pronounced sentence. "So many people say we need harsher gun laws. I believe we just need to enforce the ones that are there."

Burnett says he was pleased with the prison sentence, saying "this (gun) statute was made for a defendant like this."

The defendant admitted lying under oath at trial when saying the gun belonged to his girlfriend. However, when questioned by Judge Rice at sentencing, Derr admitted that the gun was his.

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator/public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485.