

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE: May 6, 2025

Warren man gets consecutive sentences in escape case

James D. Finlaw, 50, Harmon Avenue NW, Warren, received consecutive maximum sentences totaling 24 months in prison after being convicted last week on an escape charge.

A Trumbull County jury on April 30 took just five minutes to convict the man of the fifth-degree felony held in Judge Sarah T. Kovoov's court.



Finlaw was convicted of not reporting to his parole officer since 2020, ending a one-day trial. He was represented by two public defenders.

The case was prosecuted by First Assistant Christopher Becker, who called just one witness, a parole officer, who stated Finlaw was declared an absconder for non-reporting as of Dec. 14, 2020. Becker said this was “the shortest and quickest trial I have had in my career.”

Finlaw, who was represented at trial by public defenders Alexander Keane and Heather Ninni, was placed on post-release control after serving a prison term of 18 months for an OVI felony conviction in 2019, which included a one-year repeat violent offender specification. The case originated from a drunk driving arrest of Finlaw in Trumbull County in 2018.

He was not cooperating with his attorney and showed no respect to court officials during the trial. Becker took note of that in his sentencing memorandum, seeking consecutive sentences. Judge Kovoov agreed, saying that the consecutive sentences were necessary to protect the public from any future crimes. He received 12 months for the escape charge and then 12 months for violating his post-release control.

“You showed the utmost disrespect to the jury and to the rule of law,” the judge told Finlaw.

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