

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

Aug. 4, 2026

Repeat offender sent to prison after jury conviction

‘This defendant is a dangerous career criminal with a history of hurting women. He needs to be incapacitated for as long as the law permits’ – Gabe Wildman

A New Castle, Pa., man, convicted by a jury of three felonies connected to an assault in Liberty Township, received a consecutive, indefinite prison sentence from 10 to 13½ years Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from Trumbull County Common Pleas Judge Cynthia L. Westcott.



A Trumbull County jury on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, found Justin Fry-Starrett, 33, New Castle, Pa., guilty of felonious assault (F2), domestic violence (F3), and failure to comply with order/signal of police officer (F3).

Assistant Prosecutor Gabriel Wildman said he was pleased with both the jury's verdict and prison sentence that ended the case that included a trial in late June before Judge Westcott. The verdict came after jurors deliberated for a little more than an hour.

During the trial, Wildman called two witnesses to the stand in addition to the female victim who had to be subpoenaed by the court to testify. Wildman said the victim had been reluctant to cooperate.

The case involved a Sept. 21, 2025, incident at a Liberty Township home where Fry-Starrett punched the female victim in the face. While on the stand, the victim refused to blame Fry-Starrett or say an attack even took place. During subsequent testimony from a Liberty Township officer and a Trumbull County sheriff's sergeant in charge of the jail's call stem, Wildman was able to use video and audio evidence to show that the victim on the night of the incident reported to authorities that Fry-Starrett beat her up causing her to lose a tooth. Testimony from the officer and his uniform camera showed Fry-Starrett was eluding the police officer in his vehicle after he was spotted in traffic on Belmont Avenue.

The officer's vest cam showed the officer in pursuit on Interstate 80 as the defendant was driving eastbound toward his mother's home in Pennsylvania.

During cross examination of the defendant, Wildman showed Fry-Starrett had previous convictions for domestic violence and obstructing official business, which elevated the present domestic violence to a felony. Judge Westcott stated the failure-to-comply conviction required consecutive prison sentences due to the operation of law.

"This defendant is a dangerous career criminal with a history of hurting women. He needs to be incapacitated for as long as the law permits," Wildman said.

Wildman praised the work of the Liberty Police Department and the sheriff's office in the investigation.

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