

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE: June 17, 2026

Warren man, 19, sentenced to 31 years to life for agg murder



On Wednesday, June 17, 2026, Judge Sarah T. Kovoov sentenced a 19-year-old Warren man, Ashaud Johnson, to life in prison with parole eligibility after 31 years following the fatal shooting of a teenager at the Packard House Apartments.

Judge Kovoov extended the opportunity for the victim's family to provide remarks prior to imposing Johnson's sentence.

"I stand here consumed with a pain I can barely put into words. I am angry, I am broken and I am lost. The loss of my son Da'Mar has shattered my world." said Jenna Maze of the Trumbull County Victim Witness office, reading in behalf of the victim's mother, Arielle Brown. "I long for the nightmare to end."

"I want to hate you for taking his life, but Da'Mar nor God would allow it, so with that said, I forgive you," Brown wrote.

Johnson received life in prison with parole eligibility after 25 years for aggravated murder, consecutive to six-year sentence for a firearm specification. He will serve his sentences for two counts of tampering with evidence, 24 months each, and receiving stolen property, 12 months, concurrently to the aggravated murder and firearm specification sentences.

Judge Kovoov considered Johnson's age, criminal history and other factors when deciding his sentence, saying that he is "just of age as an adult, barely, and that [he does not] have any felony record."

On June 11, 2026, a Trumbull County jury convicted Ashaud Johnson of aggravated murder with a firearm specification, receiving stolen property, and two counts of tampering with evidence, ending the four-day trial in Judge Kovoov's courtroom.

First Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Becker, on behalf of the state, was pleased with the verdict and saluted the work of Warren police officers and detectives who gathered video and other physical evidence at the scene of the crime.

Shortly after 11 p.m. on Feb. 11, police officers found 16-year-old Da'Mar McKinney lying in the snow with a gunshot wound. The teen was taken to a nearby hospital but died from his injuries.

Becker called a host of officers including detectives Brian Crites and Nicole Smith to the stand, testifying about the weapons and shell casings collected at the scene and pointing out Johnson as one of two shooters in the security videos that were confiscated that night.

The defendant, represented by attorney Jeff Goodman, took the stand in his own defense, stating that he shot in self-defense.

The teen victim was part of a group from Youngstown riding to Warren for the purpose of a “gun trade,” and ended up in the parking lot of the apartment complex on the snowy night. The videos showed that Ashaud and another man from the apartment building were the first ones to shoot.

Brown, the victim’s mother, said she was elated with the verdict from the six-woman, six-man jury. She said that “God is good, and justice has been served.”

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