

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE: May 12, 2025



CASE FILE: Robert E. Williams

AGE: 66

INCARCERATED: Allen Correctional Institution

PAROLE HEARING: June 2025 (previous in 2015, 2020)

SENTENCE: The late Trumbull County Judge Robert A. Nader sentenced Williams to 23 years to life in prison after he pleaded guilty in 1989 to charges of aggravated murder with gun specification and gross sexual imposition.

THE CRIME: Williams was convicted of the shooting and slashing death of a 24-year-old pregnant waitress and mother of two in the fall of 1988 who served Williams a shrimp dinner at a tavern in Trumbull County. After an argument over a burnt shrimp dinner, Williams shot the victim twice, once in the back of the head and the other in the back of her torso. As the waitress, Debra Blaine, tried to go for a telephone, William got a knife from the kitchen and slashed her throat. He then fondled her breasts, before stepping on her throat until she stopped breathing.

“Unlike active volcanoes of the world, if this guy were released, he would have virtually unlimited access to go and find places or people he wants to find and choose his site to violently explode.”

■ Prosecuting Attorney Dennis Watkins

Watkins said Williams’ prison conduct included threatening a corrections officer in 2015. He stated that in the past and currently, the family of victim Blaine and members of Williams’ own family are opposing his release, in fear of him.

Members of the public may submit comments about the potential parole of Robert Williams. Comments can be made through the ODRC website: <https://drc.ohio.gov/systems-and-services/1-parole/parole-board-hearing-input>

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