

Man accused in Spotsylvania shooting has already served 28 years on a murder conviction

Keith Epps

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The man accused of firing the shots that injured his wife's daughter earlier this month has already served 28 years in prison on a murder conviction, evidence presented in court Thursday showed.

Christopher David Williams, 52, is charged with aggravated malicious wounding and other offenses stemming from a Nov. 1 incident in Fox Point subdivision. Williams was in Spotsylvania Circuit Court seeking a bond, a request that was quickly denied by Judge Ricardo Rigual.

According to police and court records, the shooting took place at 9:15 p.m. in the area of North Danford Street in Fox Point. The victim and her baby's father were on their way to pick up their infant daughter when the mother was reminded that the baby's father was not welcome at the home.

Defense attorney Dennis McCarthy said the father, Andrew Osborne, had made threats to members of the victim's family in the past. He said Williams was outside protecting his home when their car pulled up.

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After words were exchanged, Williams fired a number of shots with a gun he'd taken from his wife. McCarthy said he was aiming at Osborne, but instead hit his stepdaughter, a passenger in the car. She suffered five gunshot wounds to her lower body and was treated at Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center.

McCarthy said that if the case goes to trial, he will argue self-defense. He said Williams saw Osborne reaching for something in his console when he opened fire.

The defense attorney agreed that Williams could have made better decisions that night, such as calling the police or letting his wife take the baby to the couple. But he said Williams is not a danger to the community and deserved a bond.

He said Williams had gotten his life together since being released from prison in 2018 and is not the same man he was when he committed a homicide in the Washington area in 1990.

Prosecutor Jeremy Thiesen said Williams' criminal history and his actions earlier this month prove he is dangerous. "This was incredibly dangerous behavior by someone who has exhibited incredibly dangerous behavior in the past," Thiesen said. "He showed a complete disregard for human life."

Rigual pondered the request for a few seconds at the end of the hearing before sending Williams back to jail without bond.

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