



# **Elliot Kolkovich**

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## **Summit County Prosecutor**

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## **Akron Man Sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for Murder**

AKRON, Ohio (date) – Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Jennifer Towell sentenced Desean Williamson, 25, of Basin Terrace in Akron, to LIFE IN PRISON for the 2021 murder of 20-year-old Gage Zirke.

Williamson will be eligible for parole after serving 15 years of his sentence.

On Friday, August 2, 2024, a Summit County jury found Williamson guilty of the following charges:

- Two Counts of Murder – Special Felonies
- Felonious Assault – a Felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree

“The murder of Gage Zirke will leave a void which will be felt by his family forever. My hope is today’s sentence will bring them peace knowing the person who did this will spend the rest of his life in prison,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

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Gage Zirke's family released the following statement:

"While the sentencing today cannot undo the profound pain and loss we continue to experience, it represents a critical step toward justice. The impact of this tragedy on our family is immeasurable. The absence of Gage in our lives is felt every day and has left an irreplaceable void in our hearts. Gage was a loving son, brother, grandson, nephew, and friend."

On July 25, 2021, Gage Zirke was found shot to death in his car in the area of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and West Wilbeth Road in Akron. Investigators determined Williamson shot Zirke following an argument. Thompson drove Williamson from the scene of the shooting. In March of 2023, members of the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force captured Williamson at an Akron home. Officers arrested Thompson the same day at a Cleveland home.

On May 28, 2024, co-defendant Teion Thompson, 22 of Storer Avenue in Akron, pled guilty to the following charge:

- Obstructing Justice – a Felony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

Judge Towell is scheduled to sentence Thompson at a date yet to be announced.