

# Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal State of Louisiana

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No. 26-K-122

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STATE OF LOUISIANA  
VERSUS  
DONELL WILLIS

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IN RE DONELL WILLIS

APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE LEE V. FAULKNER, JR., DIVISION "P", NUMBER 24-5778

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TRUE COPY

March 31, 2026



SUSAN BUCHHOLZ  
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Susan M. Chehardy,  
John J. Molaison, Jr., and Timothy S. Marcel

## WRIT DENIED

The defendant/relator, Donnell Willis, seeks review of the trial court's March 27, 2026 denial of his Motion to Continue Trial and argues that his defense counsel needs additional time to review evidence turned over by the State on that same date. Trial is in progress.

The application in this case shows that the defendant is charged with aggravated assault with a firearm, simple burglary, and possessing less than 14 grams of marijuana. It is unclear whether or not the evidence at issue, a fingerprint not belonging to the defendant that was lifted from a tool box, is exculpatory material as determined under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83, 87, 83 S.Ct. 1194, 10 L.Ed.2d

215 (1963). It is also not clear whether the fingerprint was available to the defendant as part of open file discovery.

Under La. C.Cr.P. art. 712, “[a] motion for continuance, if timely filed, may be granted, in the discretion of the court, in any case if there is good ground therefor.” The decision of whether to grant or refuse a motion for a continuance rests within the sound discretion of the trial judge, and a reviewing court will not disturb such a determination absent clear abuse of discretion. *State v. Perilloux*, 21-448 (La. App. 5 Cir. 12/20/23), 378 So.3d 280, 314, *writ denied*, 24-104 (La. 9/4/24), 391 So.3d 1055. Without additional factual context regarding the circumstances of the fingerprint and its relevance to the charged offenses, there is insufficient information to make that determination. As presented, the application does not demonstrate an abuse of the trial court’s discretion.

On the showing made, we find an insufficient basis upon which to disturb the ruling of the district court. Accordingly, the application is denied.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 31st day of March, 2026.

**JJM**  
**SMC**  
**TSM**

SUSAN M. CHEARDY  
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER  
JUDE G. GRAVOIS  
MARC E. JOHNSON  
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST  
JOHN J. MOLAISON, JR.  
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL  
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



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CURTIS B. PURSELL  
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN  
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET  
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**NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY**

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **03/31/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

**CURTIS B. PURSELL**  
CLERK OF COURT

**26-K-122**

**E-NOTIFIED**

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)  
Hon. Lee V. Faulkner, Jr. (DISTRICT JUDGE)  
Honorable Paul D. Connick, Jr. (Respondent)  
Mark D. Plaisance (Relator)

Christen E. DeNicholas (Relator)  
Thomas J. Butler (Respondent)  
Darren A. Allemand (Respondent)

**MAILED**

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