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**General Court of Justice**  
**Sixth Prosecutorial District**  
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For Immediate Release  
March 18, 2026  
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### **Traffic Stop, Tip Lead to Opioid Trafficking Conviction**

Austin Charles Williams, age 26 of Goldsboro, pled guilty to Trafficking in Opium or Heroin by Possession Level III, Trafficking in Opioids by Transportation Level III, and Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance, and Trafficking Opioids by Possession, Level II on Thursday, March 12, 2026. The Honorable R. Kent Harrell sentenced Williams to a minimum of 225 months in prison. Williams was also ordered to pay a \$500,000 fine.

On April 25, 2025, a Wilmington Police Department officer stopped a vehicle in the area of 5002 Market Street for the registered owner of that vehicle, Austin Charles Williams, having a suspended license. During the traffic stop, the officer observed several items appearing to be drug paraphernalia in plain view. Officers conducted a search of the vehicle and located approximately 120 grams of fentanyl among other items of contraband inside a backpack in the center of the vehicle. Williams was arrested and able to post bond.

Later in 2025, detectives with the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office received a tip about narcotics sales in New Hanover County. Surveillance of the property, which was inhabited by Williams, led to a search warrant. During the execution of this search warrant, detectives located approximately 34 grams of methadone, an opioid, among other narcotics and contraband.



Austin Charles Williams