

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Court Minutes

DATE: July 24, 2026
JUDGE: Pamela Pepper
CASE NO: 23-cr-08
CASE NAME: United States of America v. Charles Ducksworth
NATURE OF HEARING: Arraignment and Change-of-Plea Hearing
APPEARANCES: Margaret Honrath – Attorney for the government
Abbey Marzick – Attorney for the government
Michael Chernin – Attorney for the defendant
Charles Ducksworth – Defendant
Daniel Dragolovich – U.S. Probation Officer
COURTROOM DEPUTY: Justin Dreikosen
TIME: 10:01 a.m. – 11:12 a.m.
HEARING: November 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (Sentencing)

AUDIO OF THIS HEARING AT DKT. NO. 215

The court had scheduled this hearing because on June 26, 2026, the government had filed an information, dkt. no. 206, along with an executed plea agreement. Dkt. No. 207. The plea agreement called for the defendant to plead guilty to Count One (second degree murder) and Count Two (discharge of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence) of the information.

Today in open court, the court advised the defendant of his right to be charged by indictment and the defendant confirmed that he was waiving that right. The government recounted that Count One of the information carried a maximum lifetime term of imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000 and a maximum of five years of supervised release. It advised that Count Two of the information carried a maximum lifetime term of imprisonment, a mandatory minimum term of 10 years' imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000 and a maximum of 5 years of supervised release. It also explained that each count carried a mandatory special assessment of \$100. The defendant and defense counsel executed a written waiver of indictment and the court signed the waiver.

The court then placed the defendant under oath and questioned him. After the defendant had answered all the court's questions, the court found that the defendant understood his trial rights, the penalties associated with the charges, the possible civil ramifications of a conviction, and the uncertainty of his ultimate sentence. The court also found that the defendant entered the plea knowingly, voluntarily (without threats or promises) and intelligently. The court accepted the defendant's plea of guilty and found the defendant guilty of Counts One and Two of the information.

Because the parties had waived the Rule 32 deadlines in the plea agreement, the court scheduled a sentencing date for November 18, 2026 at

10:00 a.m. **in Room 222**. The probation office will disclose the PSR by October 21, 2026, with objections due by November 4, 2026. Parties must file any sentencing memoranda, letters, medical evaluations, certificates of completion and any other documents they wish the court to consider at sentencing ***no later than six (6) days before the sentencing hearing (that is, by November 12, 2026)***. (This does not include objections to the presentence investigation report; objections to the presentence report must be filed within fourteen days of the disclosure of the presentence report.) If a party is unable to file such documents seven days prior to the sentencing hearing, that party must file a motion seeking the court's leave to file the document(s) less than seven days before the hearing and stating good cause for why the court should grant the motion. Failure to file such documents at least seven days before sentencing (or to move for leave to file the documents less than seven days before the hearing) may result in the court *sua sponte* adjourning the hearing to a date selected by the court, based on its calendar.

The probation office will file the revised presentence report at least six (6) days prior to the date of the sentencing hearing.