

# Con hits cops, escapes court, collared outside

BY BARBARA ROSS  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A BRAZEN EX-CON attacked two detectives in Manhattan Supreme Court yesterday when they tried to question him about a murder case, authorities said.

But Todd Williams didn't escape justice for long — after fleeing down the stairs and through the door, he was grabbed by court officers outside 111 Centre St.

"I saw this guy with no shirt running [out of the building]," said Court Officer Chris O'Connor. "Then I saw [court officers] coming out the door. So I tackled him."

Williams, 36, of Brooklyn, was scheduled to appear before Acting Justice Jeffrey Atlas on an unrelated weapons charge when he heard his name called by detectives, a law enforcement source said.

Witnesses said Williams looked startled and ran. He scuffled with the two cops in the hallway, allegedly decking one and wrestling the other to the floor.

He then dashed down a stairway and through a metal detector in the lobby before he was captured by court officers on the sidewalk in front of the courthouse.

O'Connor said he was getting coffee from a sidewalk vendor when he spotted Williams. With the help of court officers Robert Morris and Chris Leake, he put Williams up against a fence until he could be handcuffed and taken away.

It was still unclear late yesterday what case the homicide detectives had wanted to question Williams about. He has a past conviction for robbery.

Authorities said Williams was arrested in December when police found a knife in his pocket after stopping him for a traffic infraction in Harlem. They said he was driving with a suspended license.

He had been released from prison only last year after serving a full 10-year prison term for a first-degree robbery conviction in the Bronx.

[www.nydailynews.com](http://www.nydailynews.com)

DAILY NEWS  
8-5-04