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Former Hartnell College student who fatally stabbed brother denied early release

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A Monterey County judge denied this morning early release for a former Hartnell College student who pleaded no contest this past spring in the 2007 death of his younger brother.

Langston Williams III was ordered to serve a year in county jail and four years of felony probation in April for the Oct. 24, 2007, fatal stabbing of 18-year-old Thaddeus Williams.

At today's hearing, Williams III appeared in court in custody - dressed in the striped jail uniform.

Williams III has been in jail since May. His request comes with his official acceptance to a Texas university this fall.

"He needs to get back to his family; get back to school," said defense attorney Thomas Worthington, adding that Williams would enroll on Monday if the request was granted.

Steven Somers, a county deputy district attorney, opposed the defense's request - stating that Williams III has been shown enough leniency considering the seriousness of his crime.

"This is the most minimal punishment one can imagine," said Somers, referring to the charge Williams III pleaded to and the sentence he received.

Worthington said that while Williams III could have opted for home detention, his client elected to surrender to jail instead so that he could collect good time credits.

Following Judge Terrance Duncan's decision, Worthington said after the hearing that he plans to research several options for his client - including a new law that could reduce Williams III jail time by two months.

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He said he also plans to look into whether Williams III may be able to enroll in a local community college. If that happens, Worthington said, he plans to seek home detention for Williams.

Right now, Williams is scheduled for release Jan. 13, 2011.