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Miami recruit Williams free on bond of \$2,500

By Craig Handel, The (Fort Myers, Fla.) News-Press

MIAMI — Prized University of Miami football recruit Willie Williams has been put under house arrest for violating his probation. However, Williams will be allowed to continue going to high school.

During Friday afternoon's 90-minute bail hearing, Broward Circuit Court Judge Michael Kaplan said Williams, 19, must wear an electronic monitor. The Carol City High senior will be allowed to leave home from 6:20 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Monday through Friday to go to and from school. He can't leave home on weekends.

Bond was set at \$2,500.

Felony and misdemeanor charges have been filed against Williams in Gainesville for alleged actions during his recruiting trip to the University of Florida. Williams was charged with felony malicious damage to fire extinguishers, misdemeanor criminal mischief and misdemeanor battery. He is accused of setting off three fire extinguishers in his hotel, hugging a woman without her permission and hitting a man at a bar.

Those charges violated Williams' probation, which would've been fulfilled this past Wednesday.

"We're very happy he can go and attend school," said Fort Lauderdale defense attorney Bradford Cohen. He represented Williams along with Miami defense attorney Paul Lazarus. "I think it was very fair. This (ruling) comes into play for everything. If he didn't get his bond today, he wouldn't be able to graduate high school and he wouldn't be able to go to college.

"This 100% would've affected the rest of his life."

Miami officials had no comment on the outcome. Earlier this week, they announced Williams' admission into school would be delayed.

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