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Corrections officer involved in Nantwi death sentenced



Thomas Eck goes before Judge Michael Nolan on April 13 and pleads guilty to offering a false instrument for filing. He was sentenced on July 7 to nine months in Oneida County Jail. CASEY PRITCHARD/UTICA OBSERVER DISPATCH

Casey Pritchard
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

The last of the corrections officers involved in the death of Messiah Nantwi and subsequent cover-up have been sentenced, according to court records.

Nantwi, an inmate at Mid-State Correctional Facility, was brutally beaten to death on March 1, 2025, by a Correction Emergency Response Team to the point of unresponsiveness and beaten twice more, with his hands cuffed behind his back.

After the death, a grand jury said corrections officers got together to plant evidence and submit false testimony, which included planting a weapon in Nantwi's cell.

At the Oneida County Courthouse in Utica on May 13, Thomas Eck accepted his plea bargain from the special prosecutor's office, pleading guilty to offering a false instrument for filing.

Eck was slated for a trial in early June, but after the trial of Jonah Levi, Special Prosecutor William Fitzpatrick said a plea bargain had been negotiated with the former corrections officer.

Eck had charged with first-degree manslaughter, first-degree gang assault, second-degree gang assault, two counts of fifth-degree conspiracy, first-degree offering a false instrument for file and tampering with physical evidence.

Eck was sentenced to nine months in Oneida County Jail.

According to the indictment, Eck had lied on his paperwork to omit the name of

other corrections officers who were present.

On the heels of the sentencing is a report released by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Service on the effects of measures taken to improve safety and accountability in New York State prison facilities, including Marcy and Mid-State.

Since the deaths of Robert Brooks and Messiah Nantwi, and the illegal strike in February and March 2025, Gov. Kathy Hochul has invested over \$500 million and passed prison reform legislation to improve the safety and well-being of all staff and the incarcerated population, and to ensure transparency, accountability, and oversight within New York's correctional facilities.



David Streever and his daughter, Helen, 7, were on a vacation in Finland when ICE agents tracked him down to issue a warning related to a critical email Streever wrote in January this year.

PROVIDED BY DAVID STREEVER

Man sues DHS after email tagged as threat

Says warning, home visit by feds violate his right to free speech

Kayla Canne
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Rochester man is suing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for sending federal agents to track him down over a strongly-worded email criticizing the agency's former ICE director.

David Streever said immigration officers visited his home last month to hand-deliver a notice that warned an email he sent five months prior could be considered a threat — a serious federal offense. Streever was in Finland with his 7-year-old daughter at the time. His wife told agents he would give them a call when he returned.

But the federal officers did not wait. Two days later, an ICE agent tracked Streever and his daughter to a New York City hotel room hours after they landed at JFK International Airport. The agent left a business card at the

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Report: NY is one of the most expensive states for child care

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USA TODAY NETWORK

New York is the third most expensive state in the nation for child care, with costs consuming nearly half of a single parent's median income, according to a new WalletHub report.

As the cost of living continues to rise and more households rely on dual incomes, WalletHub analyzed child care affordability across all 50 states by comparing the cost of family-based and center-based care relative to median household income.

"It costs a lot of money to take care of a child's needs, and many parents are left with the dilemma of whether to forgo one salary to do their own child care for the first few years or to shell out a significant chunk of their income for child care services,"

WalletHub analyst Chip Lupo said.

Why New York ranks so high in cost

While New York ranks No. 11 nationally for highest median income among married couples at about \$145,000, the burden is much heavier for single parents, who have a median income of about \$41,000.

According to the report, child care costs account for roughly 38% to 45.5% of a single parent's income in New York. By comparison, South Dakota's child care costs represent about 14% to 21.6% of income.

Least and most affordable states

For single parents, the least affordable states for child care are:

- No. 1: District of Columbia
- No. 2: Massachusetts
- No. 3: New York
- No. 4: Washington
- No. 5: California

The most affordable states for single parents include:

- No. 1: South Dakota
- No. 2: Alaska
- No. 3: Idaho
- No. 4: Mississippi
- No. 5: Georgia

For married couples, the least affordable states include:

- No. 1: Nebraska
- No. 2: California
- No. 3: New York
- No. 4: Oregon
- No. 5: Washington

The most affordable states for married couples include:

- No. 1: Mississippi
- No. 2: South Dakota

- No. 3: Alabama
- No. 4: Georgia
- No. 5: Alaska

How WalletHub ranked affordability

WalletHub compared the cost of full-time family-based and center-based child care in each state and adjusted the results based on median income for married-couple households and single-parent families.

The analysis included child care costs as a share of income, including:

- Early child care costs as a percentage of median annual income
- Day care costs as a percentage of median annual income

Data used in the rankings were collected as of June 2, 2026, from the U.S. Census Bureau and Child Care Aware.

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