

Christopher Mark Taylor pled guilty to one count of aggravated battery upon a peace officer, enhanced for being a persistent violator and also enhanced for the use of a deadly weapon. Taylor also entered a guilty plea to one count of aggravated battery upon a peace officer, enhanced for being a persistent violator. The district court sentenced Taylor to concurrent fixed life terms. Taylor filed a motion for reduction of his sentences, which the district court denied.

Taylor's crimes are summarized as follows: An officer attempted a traffic stop on a car driven by Taylor. Taylor attempted to elude the officer. A chase ensued with Taylor reaching a speed of 100 mph at times. At one point Taylor briefly stopped his vehicle and fired a shotgun at the officer. The officer was hit but returned fire and continued the pursuit after Taylor again attempted to flee. Another officer tried to block Taylor's path but Taylor turned his vehicle toward the officer's vehicle, resulting in the aggravated assault charge. Ultimately, Taylor crashed his car and was captured. The officer who was wounded by the shotgun is now blind in his left eye. When Taylor committed these crimes he was a three-time convicted felon and was on probation. In addition to the prior felonies (possession of a controlled substance, eluding a peace officer and grand theft by possession of stolen property), Taylor's record includes numerous misdemeanor convictions including driving under the influence, contempt, disturbing the peace, possession of drug paraphernalia, inattentive driving, and fleeing or attempting to elude a peace officer. Taylor has numerous tattoos, some with offensive or gang-related meanings. Tattoos on his eyebrows read "White Trash," and a tattoo on his neck reads "Screw Authority."

Taylor appeals arguing that the concurrent life sentences are excessive. Specifically, Taylor asserts that the district court did not consider his substance abuse, mental health, and remorse. Taylor also argues that his assertion that he was attempting to get the officers to kill him rather than harm the officers should have been considered as a mitigating factor. Taylor finally argues that the district court abused its discretion by considering Taylor's tattoos in determining his sentence.