

Williams v. State (1989)

In response to prosecution peremptory challenges, the defense alleged improper racial bias, and a *Batson* hearing was convened. After the prosecutor presented his reasons for striking minority jurors, the defense asked to cross-examine the prosecution. The request was refused. The court of appeals abated the subsequent conviction and remanded for a new hearing. The court explained that under the procedure established in *Batson*, once a party has established a prima facie case of discrimination, the opposing party is required to supply a reasonable race-neutral explanation for striking the juror. If one is not provided, then the strike is considered improper with no further examination necessary. However, if a reason is provided, then the burden falls upon the complaining party to rebut the explanation with evidence of pretext or falsification. In doing so, the complaining party may examine witnesses, including the striking party itself.