

**Williams v. State (1977)**

The defendant was provided a court-appointed attorney, but actively maintained his own defense by making statements, filing motions, and questioning witnesses in tandem with the attorney. During testimony, evidence of a prior conviction was introduced several times before an objection was raised. A subsequent motion for mistrial was rejected and no attempt to preserve errors for appeal was made. On appeal of the conviction, the defense argued that the court should take the defendant's ignorance of the rules of evidence and procedure into account in determining whether the defendant received a fair trial. The court rejected this approach, stating that the rules were to be applied in the same manner to all defendants, regardless of whether they were represented by counsel or chose to represent themselves. It went on to state that when a defendant rejects assistance of counsel and chooses to represent himself, he cannot complain about the quality of the representation, and that it was the defendant's own choice to place himself in a position in which his folly would provide ammunition for the prosecution.