

Court sidesteps issue of social media account authentication

November 14 2016, by Dave Collins

The Connecticut Supreme Court has sidestepped the issue of how social media accounts should be authenticated in criminal cases in a ruling upholding a murder conviction.

The court issued a 6-0 decision Monday in the appeal of Derrick Bouknight, who argued prosecutors didn't prove a Facebook account they used as evidence was his.

Justices, instead, said evidence against Bouknight was overwhelming. They also said he didn't prove the Facebook [evidence](#) had a substantial effect on the jury's verdict.

Bouknight is serving a 70-year prison sentence for fatally shooting William Baines in New Haven in 2010 in a dispute over a \$100 debt.

Courts elsewhere have issued varying opinions on how much proof is required to show that a social media account belongs to a [defendant](#).

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