

OHIO NINTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

State v. McLaughlin

2026-Ohio-517 · No. 25AP0026 · Decided February 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The Ninth District Court of Appeals of Ohio affirmed Mark Anthony McLaughlin’s sentence for felony failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer. The court held that the trial court properly considered the statutory sentencing factors and did not err by imposing a lifetime operator’s license suspension.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Ohio Ninth District Court of Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Scot Stevenson; Flagg Lanzinger, P.J.; Hensal, J.
JURISDICTION	Ohio Ninth District Court of Appeals
DECIDED	February 17, 2026
DOCKET	25AP0026
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Direct appeal from a felony sentence imposed by the Wayne County Court of Common Pleas.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under R.C. 2953.08(G)(2), an appellate court may vacate or modify a felony sentence only if clear and convincing evidence shows that the record does not support the trial court's findings under the relevant statutes or that the sentence is otherwise contrary to law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Ohio Court of Appeals decision
PARTIES	Mark Anthony McLaughlin v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

- sentencing
- standard of review
- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal law
- Felony sentencing
- Appellate sentence review
- Motor-vehicle offenses

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court erred by imposing a lifetime operator's license suspension as part of McLaughlin's sentence.
2. Whether the record supported the trial court's consideration of the statutory seriousness, recidivism, and public-safety factors when imposing the lifetime suspension.

HOLDINGS

1. The lifetime operator's license suspension was authorized by statute and was not contrary to law because the record supported the trial court's consideration of the relevant statutory sentencing factors.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“an appellate court may vacate or modify a felony sentence on appeal only if it determines by clear and convincing evidence that the record does not support the trial court’s findings under relevant statutes or that the sentence is otherwise contrary to law.” (§14)

“Trial courts have full discretion to impose a prison sentence within the statutory range” (§15)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

McLaughlin drove at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour during a nearly 40-minute, multijurisdictional police pursuit. He attempted to evade the pursuit by turning off the vehicle's lights and ultimately crashed after driving into a residential yard to avoid spike strips. He pleaded guilty to felony failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer, and the trial court imposed a lifetime suspension of his operator's license based on the seriousness of the conduct, his prior record, and public-safety concerns.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A Wayne County grand jury indicted McLaughlin for failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer and three minor misdemeanor traffic offenses. Pursuant to plea negotiations, the State dismissed the minor misdemeanor counts, McLaughlin pleaded guilty to the felony, and the trial court imposed the agreed 12-month prison term, restitution, and a lifetime operator's license suspension. McLaughlin appealed only the lifetime license suspension, and the Ninth District affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- State v. Marcum, 2016-Ohio-1002
- Cross v. Ledford, 161 Ohio St. 469, 477 (1954)
- State v. Foster, 2006-Ohio-856
- State v. Lucas, 2019-Ohio-2607
- State v. Mathis, 2006-Ohio-855
- State v. Godschild, 2025-Ohio-5085

