

IOWA COURT OF APPEALS

State of Iowa v. Todd Wayne Moore

No. 24-1940 (Iowa Ct. App. Apr. 15, 2026) · No. No. 24-1940 · Decided April 15, 2026

SUMMARY

The Iowa Court of Appeals affirmed Todd Wayne Moore’s conviction for domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon. The court held that substantial evidence supported the jury’s verdict and declined to reweigh witness credibility or resolve conflicts in the evidence.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Iowa Court of Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Bower, Senior Judge; Greer, P.J.; Sandy, J.; Bower, S.J.
JURISDICTION	Iowa Court of Appeals
DECIDED	April 15, 2026
DOCKET	No. 24-1940
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Moore appealed his jury conviction for domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon, challenging the sufficiency of the evidence.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Sufficiency-of-the-evidence claims are reviewed for correction of errors at law. The appellate court views the evidence in the light most favorable to the State and will affirm if substantial evidence supports the verdict, including reasonable inferences and presumptions deduced from the record.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Iowa Court of Appeals opinion
PARTIES	Todd Wayne Moore v. State of Iowa

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- evidence
- appellate procedure
- standard of review
- burden of proof

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal law
- criminal procedure
- appellate practice
- evidence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether substantial evidence supported Moore's conviction for domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon.
2. Whether the appellate court should reweigh conflicting testimony and reassess the credibility of the eyewitnesses and alleged victim in reviewing the sufficiency of the evidence.

HOLDINGS

1. Substantial evidence supported the jury's finding that Moore committed domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon, and the conviction was affirmed.
2. The appellate court may not reweigh evidence, resolve conflicts in testimony, or second-guess the jury's credibility determinations when reviewing the sufficiency of the evidence.

KEY QUOTATIONS

““In reviewing the sufficiency of the evidence, we are highly deferential to the jury’s verdict,” and we are bound by it “if it is supported by substantial evidence.”” (at 2)

““The jury is the sole arbiter of witness credibility,” not us.” (at 3)

““In considering a challenge to the sufficiency of the evidence, it is not the province of the court to resolve conflicts in the evidence, to pass upon the credibility of witnesses, to determine the plausibility of explanations, or to weigh the evidence; such matters are for the jury.”” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On March 13, 2024, Destanne Campbell saw a woman, later identified as N.C., in a ditch waving and screaming for help while Moore chased her. Campbell returned with her mother, Leslie, and the two saw a Jeep swerve at N.C. and nearly hit her. N.C. appeared scared, shaking, and crying, identified Moore as the person who chased her and swerved at her, and provided an initial statement to police, but at trial she denied Moore's involvement and claimed police questioning led her to make the earlier statements.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Following a brief jury trial in the Iowa District Court for Tama County, Moore was found guilty of domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon. He appealed, arguing that the eyewitnesses lacked credibility and that the alleged victim's trial testimony supported his general denial. The Iowa Court of Appeals affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- State v. Mathis, 971 N.W.2d 514, 516 (Iowa 2022)
- State v. Mathis, 971 N.W.2d 514, 516-17 (Iowa 2022)
- State v. Mathis, 971 N.W.2d 514, 517 (Iowa 2022)

- State v. Mathis, 971 N.W.2d 514, 519 (Iowa 2022)
- State v. Lindaman, 30 N.W.3d 547, 555 (Iowa 2025)
- State v. Musser, 721 N.W.2d 758, 761 (Iowa 2006)

OPINION

State of Iowa v. Todd Wayne Moore

PER CURIAM.

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

_____ No. 24-1940 Filed April 15, 2026 _____ State of Iowa, Plaintiff–Appellee, v. Todd Wayne Moore, Defendant–Appellant. _____ Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Tama County, The Honorable Mark D. Fisher, Judge. _____

AFFIRMED

_____ Kent A. Simmons, Bettendorf, attorney for appellant. Brenna Bird, Attorney General, and Aaron Rogers, Assistant Attorney General, attorneys for appellee. _____

Considered without oral argument by Greer, P.J., Sandy, J., and Bower, S.J. Opinion by Bower, S.J. 1 BOWER, Senior Judge. Todd Moore appeals his conviction for domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon, challenging the sufficiency of the evidence. Upon our review, we affirm. I. Background Facts and Proceedings On March 13, 2024, Destanne Campbell was driving home from work when she saw a car in the ditch on her side of the road. Destanne saw a woman (later identified as N.C.) in the ditch “waving her arms and screaming for help” while a man (later identified as Moore) was “chasing her.” Moore was chasing N.C. “[i]nto the field” and “[s]he was trying to get away from him.” Destanne wanted to help N.C. but did not feel comfortable stopping by herself, so she picked up her mother, Leslie, and returned to the same stretch of the highway. Upon their return a few minutes later, Destanne and Leslie saw a Jeep “swerve at [N.C.]” and almost hit her. Destanne pulled over and told N.C. to get in their car. N.C. obliged. Destanne and Leslie noticed N.C. was scared, shaking, and crying. N.C. identified the man who chased her and swerved at her as Moore. After dropping N.C. off to safety, Destanne and Leslie called the police to report the incident. Destanne, Leslie, and N.C. provided separate statements about the event. At trial, Destanne and Leslie testified about what they saw and what N.C. had told them. N.C., however, recasted her initial statements and 2 denied any involvement by Moore in the crime. After a brief trial the jury came back with a guilty verdict. II. Standard of Review We review claims challenging the sufficiency of the evidence for correction of errors at law. State v. Mathis, 971 N.W.2d 514, 516 (Iowa 2022). “In reviewing the sufficiency of the evidence, we are highly deferential to the jury’s verdict,” and we are bound by it “if it is supported by substantial evidence.” Id. Evidence is substantial if it can convince a rational fact finder of the defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Id. at 516–17. To determine if “the jury’s verdict is supported by substantial evidence, we view the evidence in the light most favorable to the State.” Id. at 517. This includes reasonable inferences and presumptions deduced from the record. Id. III. Sufficiency

of the Evidence Moore's charge for domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon arose from Destanne's and Leslie's reports, along with N.C.'s corroboration of what took place during the incident. The jury was instructed the State must prove the following elements of domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon:

1. On or about the 13th day of March 2024, the defendant did an act which was meant to place [N.C.] in fear of immediate physical contact which would have been painful, injurious, insulting, or offensive to [N.C.], by displaying in a threatening manner a dangerous weapon, to-wit: a motor vehicle driven by Todd Wayne Moore toward [N.C.].

2. The defendant had the apparent ability to do the act.

3. At that time the defendant used or displayed a dangerous weapon.

4. The act occurred between persons who have been family or household members residing together within the past year. 3 See Iowa Code § 708.2A(2)(c) (2024) (defining domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon). The jury determined the State proved all four elements and found Moore guilty as charged. On appeal, Moore contests the sufficiency of the evidence on the basis both eyewitnesses lack credibility, arguing their previous knowledge 1 of Moore gave them reason to falsely identify him, resulting in prejudice. Moore further contends his defense of general denial was supported by the testimony of the alleged victim of the domestic-abuse assault, noting N.C. maintained at trial she did not recognize Moore's vehicle swerving at her, nobody chased her, and she was not waving her hands or screaming for help. N.C. testified she only said these events took place because the police questioning her would not take "no" for an answer. However, "[t]he jury is the sole arbiter of witness credibility," not us. *State v. Lindaman*, 30 N.W.3d 547, 555 (Iowa 2025) (noting the defendant had "misperceive[d] our role" as the reviewing court by asking the court to reweigh witness credibility). Indeed, appellate review is "not the trial redux." *Mathis*, 971 N.W.2d at 519. "In considering a challenge to the sufficiency of the evidence, it is not the province of the court to resolve conflicts in the evidence, to pass upon the credibility of witnesses, to determine the plausibility of explanations, or to weigh the evidence; such matters are for the jury." *Lindaman*, 30 N.W.3d at 555 (cleaned up). Here, the jury weighed these matters and was entitled to deem the witnesses' testimony credible or not. See *State v. Musser*, 721 N.W.2d 758, 761 1 On cross-examination, the defense established Leslie had previously heard Moore's name in connection to an incident occurring at Moore's home. Destanne and Leslie work at a nursing home near Moore's home, and the incident involved other nursing home staff. 4 (Iowa 2006). We refuse to second-guess the jury's verdict on this basis. Because substantial evidence supports the jury's verdict, we affirm Moore's conviction for domestic abuse assault with a dangerous weapon. **AFFIRMED.** 5