

FLORIDA THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

George Walton v. State of Florida

Walton v. State · No. No. 3D24-0485 · Decided April 22, 2026

SUMMARY

The Third District Court of Appeal of Florida affirmed George Walton’s criminal conviction. The court held that the evidence was legally sufficient under the applicable standard of review, viewing the evidence and reasonable inferences in the light most favorable to the State.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Florida Third District Court of Appeal
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Fernandez; Logue; Gordo
JURISDICTION	Florida Third District Court of Appeal
DECIDED	April 22, 2026
DOCKET	No. 3D24-0485
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from a criminal judgment of the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The appellate court reviews the legal sufficiency of the evidence by viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the State and determining whether a rational trier of fact could have found the elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt. The evidence must be competent and substantial.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	George Walton v. State of Florida

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- standard of review
- criminal procedure
- evidence
- reasonable doubt

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal appellate law
- criminal procedure
- evidence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether competent, substantial evidence supported the criminal conviction under the applicable legal-sufficiency standard.

HOLDINGS

1. The conviction was supported by legally sufficient evidence under the standard requiring the appellate court to view the evidence in the light most favorable to the State and determine whether a rational trier of fact could find the crime's elements beyond a reasonable doubt.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“This standard should now be used in all cases where the sufficiency of the evidence is analyzed.” (at 1-2)

“The standard of review historically applied to a determination of the legal sufficiency of evidence to support a criminal conviction, at least where there is some direct evidence, is simply whether the State presented competent, substantial evidence to support the verdict.” (at 1)

“There is sufficient evidence to sustain a conviction if, after viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the State, a rational trier of fact could find the existence of the elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion contains no detailed factual account of the alleged offense or trial evidence. It reflects an appeal from a criminal proceeding in which the sufficiency of the evidence supporting the conviction was at issue.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

George Walton appealed from proceedings in the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, Florida. The Third District Court of Appeal affirmed without further explanation, citing the legal-sufficiency standard described in *Bush v. State* and related authorities.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Bush v. State*, 295 So. 3d 179, 200-01 (Fla. 2020)
- *Tibbs v. State*, 397 So. 2d 1120, 1123 (Fla. 1981)
- *Spinkellink v. State*, 313 So. 2d 666, 671 (Fla. 1975)
- *Rogers v. State*, 285 So. 3d 872, 891 (Fla. 2019)
- *Bradley v. State*, 787 So. 2d 732, 738 (Fla. 2001)
- *De Groot v. Sheffield*, 95 So. 2d 912, 916 (Fla. 1957)
- *Johnston v. State*, 863 So. 2d 271, 283 (Fla. 2003)
- *Garcia v. State*, 373 So. 3d 1213, 1222 (Fla. 3d DCA 2023)

- State v. Shearod, 992 So. 2d 900, 904 (Fla. 2d DCA 2008)
- Knight v. State, 107 So. 3d 449, 463 (Fla. 5th DCA 2013), approved, 186 So. 3d 1005 (Fla. 2016)
- Calloway v. State, 210 So. 3d 1160, 1199 (Fla. 2017)

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