

COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO, TENTH APPELLATE DISTRICT

State v. Stewart

2026-Ohio-2097 · No. 25AP-134 · Decided June 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The Tenth District Court of Appeals affirmed Samuel Stewart’s conviction for assault following a jury trial in the Franklin County Municipal Court. The court held that the conviction was not against the manifest weight of the evidence, concluding that the surveillance video, photographs, officer testimony, and Stewart’s admissions supported the jury’s finding that he knowingly caused physical harm.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Ohio, Tenth Appellate District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jamison, J.; Beatty Blunt, J.; Dingus, J.
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Tenth Appellate District
DECIDED	June 4, 2026
DOCKET	25AP-134
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Stewart appealed his jury conviction for assault from the Franklin County Municipal Court, arguing that the verdict was against the manifest weight of the evidence.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	For a manifest-weight challenge, the appellate court reviews the entire record, weighs the evidence and reasonable inferences, considers witness credibility, and determines whether the jury clearly lost its way and created a manifest miscarriage of justice. Reversal is reserved for the exceptional case in which the evidence weighs heavily against the conviction, while substantial deference is given to the jury's credibility determinations.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Ohio Court of Appeals opinion
PARTIES	Samuel Stewart v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

criminal procedure

appellate practice

evidence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Stewart's assault conviction was against the manifest weight of the evidence because the evidence did not establish that he knowingly caused or attempted to cause physical harm to J.D.

HOLDINGS

1. The conviction was not against the manifest weight of the evidence. The jury reasonably found that Stewart knowingly caused physical harm to J.D. when he grabbed her by the neck and pushed her to the ground.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“the court, reviewing the entire record, weighs the evidence and all reasonable inferences, considers the credibility of witnesses and determines whether in resolving conflicts in the evidence, the jury clearly lost its way and created such a manifest miscarriage of justice that the conviction must be reversed and a new trial ordered.” (¶ 12)

“Thus, in conducting the limited weighing of the evidence permitted, we cannot say the jury clearly lost its way in finding Stewart guilty of assault beyond a reasonable doubt.” (¶ 19)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

At a Circle K, surveillance video showed Stewart pursuing J.D. into the store, struggling with her, taking a phone from her, shoving her by the neck, and later grabbing her throat and pushing her backward over storage crates. Police later located J.D. and photographed fresh scratches on both sides of her neck; Stewart arrived at the location in the vehicle involved and was wearing the shirt shown in the video. Stewart admitted that he was the male person in the video and that his hand contacted J.D.'s throat, but denied intending to injure her and claimed he was attempting to retrieve his car keys.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Stewart was charged with domestic violence and assault. The domestic-violence charge was dismissed, and a jury trial on the assault charge resulted in a guilty verdict on November 1, 2024. The municipal court imposed fines, jail time, and jail credit, memorializing the judgment on January 9, 2025. Stewart timely appealed, and the Tenth District affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- State v. Thompkins, 1997-Ohio-52, ¶ 25

- State v. Martin, 20 Ohio App.3d 172, 175 (1st Dist. 1983)
- State v. Jordan, 2023-Ohio-3800, ¶ 17
- State v. Gullick, 2014-Ohio-1642, ¶¶ 10-11 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Nivens, 1996 Ohio App. LEXIS 2245, *7 (10th Dist. May 28, 1996)
- State v. Antill, 176 Ohio St. 61, 67 (1964)
- State v. Houston, 2005-Ohio-4249, ¶ 38 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Chandler, 2006-Ohio-2070, ¶ 19
- State v. Huber, 2019-Ohio-1862, ¶ 32 (10th Dist.)
- Seasons Coal Co. v. Cleveland, 10 Ohio St.3d 77, 80 (1984)
- State v. Cattledge, 2010-Ohio-4953, ¶ 6
- State v. Hood, 2015-Ohio-5373, ¶ 11 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Strong, 2011-Ohio-1024, ¶ 42 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Tate, 2014-Ohio-3667, ¶ 20