

COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO, SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In re C.B.G.

2026 Ohio 950 · No. C.A. No. 30624 · Decided March 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The Ohio Second District Court of Appeals held that a juvenile receiving a serious youthful offender disposition is not properly described as having entered a guilty plea or received a conviction. The court reversed the juvenile court's denial of C.B.G.'s motion to strike those terms from the dispositional judgment entry and remanded for further proceedings.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Ohio, Second Appellate District, Montgomery County
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael L. Tucker; Lewis, P.J.; Huffman, J.
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Second Appellate District, Montgomery County
DECIDED	March 20, 2026
DOCKET	C.A. No. 30624
DISPOSITION	reversed_and_remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	C.B.G. appealed the juvenile court's denial of his motion to strike references to a guilty plea and conviction from an SYO dispositional judgment entry.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The opinion does not expressly identify a standard of review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	C.B.G. v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure
- statutory interpretation
- appellate jurisdiction

PRACTICE AREAS

- juvenile law
- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a juvenile court may describe a child's admission in an SYO proceeding as a guilty plea and state that the child was convicted of the offense.
2. Whether the juvenile court erred by denying C.B.G.'s motion to strike the terms "guilty," "guilty plea," "conviction," and related variations from the dispositional judgment entry.

HOLDINGS

1. A child in juvenile court does not enter a guilty plea or receive a conviction when the child admits acts that would constitute felonies if committed by an adult, even when the child receives a serious youthful offender blended sentence.
2. The juvenile court erred by using conviction, convicted, guilty, and guilty plea, or variations thereof, in the SYO dispositional judgment entry.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“As such, we conclude that the trial court erred by utilizing the words, and any variations thereof, “conviction,” and “guilty plea” in the juvenile court’s judgment entry.” (¶ 10)

“For the reasons previously explained, a child in the juvenile court does not plead guilty and is not convicted of a crime when the child admits he committed acts that would constitute felonies if committed by an adult, even when he receives an SYO blended sentence.” (¶ 9)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

C.B.G. was 17 when charged in juvenile court with conduct that would constitute second-degree-felony felonious assault if committed by an adult. Although the State initially sought transfer for adult prosecution, it withdrew that motion, and C.B.G. admitted the offense with a serious youthful offender specification. The juvenile court imposed a juvenile disposition and a stayed eight-to-ten-year adult prison sentence, but its judgment entry described C.B.G. as having pleaded guilty and been convicted. The juvenile court denied C.B.G.'s motion to strike those terms.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A complaint was filed in the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division, alleging conduct that would constitute felonious assault if committed by an adult. The State moved to transfer the case for adult prosecution, but withdrew that motion. C.B.G. admitted the offense and received a juvenile disposition with a stayed adult SYO sentence. After the juvenile court denied his motion to remove references to a guilty plea and conviction from its entry, C.B.G. appealed.

DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The matter was remanded for further proceedings consistent with the opinion.

CASES CITED

- In re J.L., 2021-Ohio-3823 (8th Dist.)
- In re Caldwell, 76 Ohio St.3d 156, 158, 666 N.E.2d 1367 (1996)
- In re D.H., 120 Ohio St.3d 540, 2009-Ohio-9, 901 N.E.2d 209, ¶ 18
- State v. Hand, 149 Ohio St.3d 94, 2016-Ohio-5504, 73 N.E.3d 448, ¶ 14
- In re C.P., 131 Ohio St.3d 513, 2012-Ohio-1446, 967 N.E.2d 729, ¶¶ 66-67
- State v. D.B., 150 Ohio St.3d 452, 2017-Ohio-6952, 82 N.E.3d 1162, ¶¶ 12-13

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