

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT
AMARILLO

Leopoldo Thomas Salazar II v. the State of Texas

No. 07-25-00354-CR · No. No. 07-25-00354-CR · Decided June 2, 2026

SUMMARY

The Texas Seventh Court of Appeals affirmed Leopoldo Thomas Salazar II’s conviction for possession of four grams or more but less than 200 grams of methamphetamine, enhanced by two prior felony convictions, and his 60-year sentence. The court held that the combined circumstantial evidence—including his sole occupancy of the vehicle, access to the glove compartment, nervous conduct, inconsistent statements, and admission of recent methamphetamine use—was sufficient to establish knowing possession.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the Seventh District of Texas at Amarillo
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Alex Yarbrough; Parker, C.J.; Doss, J.; Yarbrough, J.
JURISDICTION	Texas Court of Appeals, Seventh District at Amarillo
DECIDED	June 2, 2026
DOCKET	No. 07-25-00354-CR
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed a jury conviction for possession of methamphetamine, challenging the legal sufficiency of the evidence.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed whether, viewing all the evidence in the light most favorable to the verdict, a rational jury could have found every essential element of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt. The reviewing court deferred to the jury’s determinations regarding witness credibility, evidentiary weight, and conflicting inferences.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished and nonprecedential
PARTIES	Leopoldo Thomas Salazar II v. The State of Texas

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

criminal procedure

appellate practice

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether legally sufficient evidence established that Salazar intentionally or knowingly possessed the methamphetamine found in the vehicle's glove compartment.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence was legally sufficient for a rational jury to find beyond a reasonable doubt that Salazar intentionally or knowingly possessed the methamphetamine. His sole occupancy of the vehicle and the combined force of the circumstances linked him to the contraband despite its location in an enclosed glove compartment.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Based on the combined and cumulative force of the evidence and inferences therefrom, the jury was free to infer Appellant intentionally or knowingly possessed the methamphetamine.” (at 5)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

During a traffic stop for a broken brake light, Officer Auldridge observed Salazar acting unusually nervous and found an open alcoholic beverage container in the vehicle. Salazar consented to a search, during which the officer found a plastic bag containing 5.32 grams of methamphetamine inside a small container in the glove compartment. Salazar was the vehicle's sole occupant, denied knowing about the methamphetamine, but admitted he had smoked methamphetamine a few days earlier; the evidence also showed nervous behavior, inconsistent explanations about his destination, and a delayed claim that he had recently transported a passenger.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After pleading not guilty, Appellant was tried by a jury and convicted of possessing four grams or more but less than 200 grams of methamphetamine. His punishment was enhanced by two prior felony convictions, and the trial court assessed a sixty-year sentence. The court of appeals overruled his sole sufficiency issue and affirmed the judgment.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Harrell v. State, 620 S.W.3d 910, 913 (Tex. Crim. App. 2021)
- Jackson v. Virginia, 443 U.S. 307, 319 (1979)
- Brooks v. State, 323 S.W.3d 893, 912 (Tex. Crim. App. 2010)
- Dunham v. State, 666 S.W.3d 477, 482 (Tex. Crim. App. 2023)

- Evans v. State, 202 S.W.3d 158, 161-62, 166 (Tex. Crim. App. 2006)
- Menchaca v. State, 901 S.W.2d 640, 652 (Tex. App.—El Paso 1995, pet. ref'd)
- Tate v. State, 500 S.W.3d 410, 413-14 (Tex. Crim. App. 2016)
- Acosta v. State, 429 S.W.3d 621, 625 (Tex. Crim. App. 2014)
- Mixon v. State, 481 S.W.3d 318, 323 (Tex. App.—Amarillo 2015, pet. ref'd)
- Nunn v. State, No. 07-08-00493-CR, 2009 Tex. App. LEXIS 7794, at *2, *13 (Tex. App.—Amarillo Oct. 6, 2009, no pet.) (mem. op., not designated for publication)

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