

OHIO COURT OF APPEALS, FIFTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, DELAWARE
COUNTY

State v. Humphrey

2026-Ohio-621 · No. 25 CAA 08 0067 · Decided February 23, 2026

SUMMARY

The Ohio Fifth District Court of Appeals reviewed an Anders brief concerning Karin Elizabeth Humphrey’s guilty pleas to cocaine possession and obstructing official business, as well as her consecutive prison sentences. The court independently reviewed the record, found no nonfrivolous appellate issues, granted appointed counsel’s motion to withdraw, and affirmed the judgment.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Ohio Court of Appeals, Fifth Appellate District, Delaware County
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Robert G. Montgomery; Andrew J. King; William B. Hoffman
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Fifth Appellate District
DECIDED	February 23, 2026
DOCKET	25 CAA 08 0067
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Humphrey appealed judgments entered after she pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree felony possession of cocaine and one count of obstructing official business. Appointed appellate counsel filed an Anders brief and moved to withdraw, asserting that no nonfrivolous appellate issues existed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Compliance with Crim.R. 11(C) is reviewed de novo. Felony sentences are reviewed under R.C. 2953.08, and an appellate court may modify or vacate a sentence when it clearly and convincingly finds specified statutory findings unsupported by the record or finds that the sentence is otherwise contrary to law. In an Anders appeal, the appellate court independently examines the entire record to determine whether the appeal is wholly frivolous.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Ohio Court of Appeals opinion
PARTIES	Karin Elizabeth Humphrey v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

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criminal procedure

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felony sentencing

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court complied with Ohio Crim.R. 11(C) when accepting Humphrey's guilty pleas.
2. Whether Humphrey's sentences were contrary to law or otherwise subject to appellate modification.
3. Whether independent review under Anders disclosed any nonfrivolous issue warranting an appeal.

HOLDINGS

1. When appointed appellate counsel files an Anders brief and requests withdrawal, the appellate court must independently examine the entire record to determine whether the appeal is wholly frivolous. If no arguable meritorious issue exists, the court may grant counsel's motion to withdraw and dismiss or otherwise resolve the appeal.
2. A guilty plea is properly accepted when the trial court complies with the requirements of Ohio Crim.R. 11(C), and the plea is made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.
3. The challenged sentences were not contrary to law because the trial court considered the statutory purposes and principles of felony sentencing, considered the seriousness and recidivism factors, imposed sentences within the statutory ranges, and made the required findings for consecutive sentences.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The appellate court must conduct a full examination of the proceedings and decide if the appeal is indeed wholly frivolous." (¶ 19)

"Guilty pleas must be made knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily." (¶ 23)

"We therefore find the appeal to be wholly frivolous under Anders." (¶ 34)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In December 2023, a search of Humphrey's residence resulted in the seizure of oxycodone, morphine, approximately 377 grams of cocaine, cash, and a firearm. A second search in October 2024 resulted in the seizure of fentanyl, methamphetamine, psilocin, and approximately 209 grams of cocaine. After being released on pretrial supervision in the drug case, Humphrey removed her GPS monitoring device and resisted an attempted arrest, kicking a probation officer. She ultimately pleaded guilty to two cocaine-possession counts and obstructing official business.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Humphrey was indicted in the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas on five drug-related counts and later pleaded guilty to two cocaine-possession counts in exchange for dismissal of the remaining drug counts. She

separately pleaded guilty to obstructing official business. The trial court accepted the pleas, imposed consecutive prison terms, and entered judgment. On appeal, appointed counsel filed an Anders brief; Humphrey did not file a pro se brief. The Fifth District independently reviewed the record, granted counsel's motion to withdraw, and affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Anders v. California, 386 U.S. 738 (1967)
- State v. Nero, 56 Ohio St.3d 106, 108-109 (1990)
- State v. Lebron, 2020-Ohio-1507, ¶ 9 (8th Dist.)
- State v. Groves, 2019-Ohio-5025, ¶ 7 (5th Dist.)
- State v. Hinkel, 2024-Ohio-5499, ¶ 25 (5th Dist.)
- State v. McMillen, 2022-Ohio-1212, ¶ 10 (5th Dist.)
- State v. Marcum, 2016-Ohio-1002, ¶ 22