

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Flowers v. State

No. 451, 2024 (Del. Feb. 17, 2026) · No. No. 451, 2024 · Decided February 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The Delaware Supreme Court affirmed Keron S. Flowers’s convictions and sentence for home invasion—first-degree burglary, attempted first-degree robbery, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, wearing a disguise during a felony, second-degree conspiracy, and third-degree assault. Applying Supreme Court Rule 26(c), the Court found no arguably appealable issue in Flowers’s challenges to the sufficiency of the evidence, witness credibility, alleged prosecutorial misstatement, surveillance footage, jury impartiality, or verdict characterization. The Court granted the State’s motion to affirm and deemed appointed counsel’s motion to withdraw moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of Delaware
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Collins J. Seitz, Jr., Chief Justice; Karen L. Valihura, Justice; Griffiths, Justice
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of Delaware
DECIDED	February 17, 2026
DOCKET	No. 451, 2024
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Direct appeal from criminal convictions and sentence; appellate counsel filed a motion to withdraw and a brief under Delaware Supreme Court Rule 26(c).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Delaware Supreme Court Rule 26(c), the Court must determine whether counsel conscientiously examined the record and law for arguably appealable claims and independently review the record to determine whether the appeal is wholly devoid of at least arguably appealable issues. Sufficiency-of-the-evidence claims are ordinarily reviewed to determine whether any rational trier of fact, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the State, could find guilt beyond a reasonable doubt; because Flowers did not move for a judgment of acquittal, his sufficiency claim was reviewed for plain error. Unpreserved evidentiary claims are reviewed for plain error.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Delaware Supreme Court order; precedential status is identified as published.
PARTIES	Keron S. Flowers v. State of Delaware

TOPICS

criminal procedure appellate procedure evidence reasonable doubt speedy trial

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law criminal appellate procedure evidence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the evidence was sufficient to sustain Flowers' convictions.
2. Whether the prosecutor falsely represented that Flowers' DNA was found on the recovered firearm.
3. Whether the Superior Court erred by failing to dismiss the case after a witness failed to appear, by failing to resolve conflicting witness testimony, or by failing to exclude surveillance footage.
4. Whether the jury was tainted or returned a verdict only for first-degree burglary rather than home invasion.
5. Whether the record supported a different speedy-trial result for Flowers from the result reached for Boykin.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence was sufficient to support Flowers' convictions for home invasion—first-degree burglary, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, wearing a disguise during the commission of a felony, second-degree conspiracy, and third-degree assault.
2. A defendant may be convicted of home invasion—first-degree burglary despite initially being invited into the dwelling if the defendant thereafter remains unlawfully with the intent to commit a crime.
3. The jury, as the sole trier of fact, was responsible for assessing witness credibility and resolving conflicts in testimony.
4. Flowers failed to establish plain error or prejudice from the witness's absence, and his failure to object to the surveillance footage precluded relief absent a basis for sua sponte exclusion.
5. The record did not support a claim that the jury was tainted, and the verdict form established that the jury convicted Flowers of home invasion—first-degree burglary.
6. The appeal was wholly without merit and devoid of any arguably appealable issue, and counsel satisfied the obligations required for withdrawal under Rule 26(c).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“When reviewing a motion to withdraw and an accompanying brief under Rule 26(c), this Court must: (i) be satisfied that defense counsel has made a conscientious examination of the record and the law for arguable claims; and (ii) conduct its own review of the record and determine whether the appeal is so totally devoid of at least arguably appealable issues that it can be decided without an adversary presentation.” (¶ 18)

“Generally, we review an insufficiency of evidence claim to determine whether any rational trier of fact, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the State, could have found the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.” (¶ 20)

“As the sole trier of fact, the jury was responsible for determining witness credibility and resolving any conflicts in witness testimony.” (¶ 22)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Flowers and Isaiah Boykin went to the victims' home after arranging a purported drug transaction. According to the victims and supporting surveillance and forensic evidence, Flowers entered the home masked, threatened Toller with a firearm, demanded money, and assaulted him, while Boykin threatened and struck Ware. Police stopped Flowers shortly afterward driving the silver Hyundai associated with the incident; a passenger fled, and police recovered a loaded firearm with Ware's DNA, a bloodstained jacket and mask, and other evidence connecting Flowers and Boykin to the crimes.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A Superior Court jury convicted Flowers of home invasion—first-degree burglary, attempted first-degree robbery, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, wearing a disguise during the commission of a felony, second-degree conspiracy, and third-degree assault, while acquitting him of strangulation. The Superior Court imposed an aggregate sentence of thirty-eight years of Level V incarceration, suspended after nine years for decreasing levels of supervision. On direct appeal, counsel moved to withdraw under Rule 26(c), Flowers submitted pro se claims, and the State moved to affirm.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Penson v. Ohio, 488 U.S. 75, 83 (1988)
- Leacock v. State, 690 A.2d 926, 927-28 (Del. 1996)
- Farmer v. State, 844 A.2d 297, 300 (Del. 2004)
- Swan v. State, 820 A.2d 342, 358 (Del. 2003)
- Wainwright v. State, 504 A.2d 1096, 1100 (Del. 1986)
- Tyre v. State, 412 A.2d 326, 330 (Del. 1980)
- Pryor v. State, 453 A.2d 98, 100 (Del. 1982)
- Barker v. Wingo, 407 U.S. 514 (1972)

- Boykin v. State, 2025 WL 3674660 (Del. Dec. 17, 2025)

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