

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TENTH APPELLATE DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Thomas Allen Stanton v. The State of Texas

Stanton v. State · No. 10-25-00001-CR · Decided May 14, 2026

SUMMARY

The Tenth Court of Appeals of Texas affirmed Thomas Allen Stanton’s convictions for three counts of indecency with a child by contact and his 15-year sentences on each count. The court held that Stanton failed to preserve his challenge to the timing of the State’s election of offenses and waived his complaint about the absence of a limiting instruction because he did not request one when the extraneous-act evidence was admitted.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the Tenth Appellate District of Texas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Lee Harris; Justice Smith; Justice Harris; Senior Justice Gabriel
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals for the Tenth Appellate District of Texas
DECIDED	May 14, 2026
DOCKET	10-25-00001-CR
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Stanton appealed his convictions for three counts of indecency with a child by contact and his sentences of fifteen years' imprisonment on each count.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Thomas Allen Stanton v. The State of Texas

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- preservation of error
- appellate procedure
- evidence

PRACTICE AREAS

- Texas criminal law
- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- evidence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Stanton preserved his complaint that the trial court permitted the State to elect the acts supporting the convictions at the close of all the evidence rather than at the end of the State's case-in-

chief.

2. Whether the trial court erred by failing to give the jury a limiting instruction concerning extraneous acts of indecency when Stanton did not request such an instruction when the evidence was admitted.

HOLDINGS

1. A defendant who does not object at trial to the timing of the State's election of offenses, but instead acquiesces in the trial court's decision, fails to preserve the complaint for appellate review.
2. When extraneous-offense evidence is admitted, a defendant must request a limiting instruction at the time the evidence is admitted; absent that request, the trial court has no obligation to give a limiting instruction later in the jury charge, and the evidence may be considered for all purposes.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“But it is well-established that if a defendant does not request a limiting instruction under Rule 105 at the time the evidence is admitted, the trial judge has no obligation to limit the use of that evidence later in the jury charge.” (3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Stanton was convicted of three counts of indecency with a child by contact involving allegations that he touched the genitals and breast of his stepdaughter. The victim testified about several instances corresponding to the alleged indecency. The State elected at the close of all the evidence which acts it would rely on for the convictions, and Stanton did not object to the timing of that election. Extraneous acts of indecency were also admitted without Stanton requesting a limiting instruction when the evidence was admitted.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The 54th District Court of McLennan County convicted Stanton of three counts of indecency with a child by contact and sentenced him to fifteen years in prison for each count. On appeal, Stanton challenged the timing of the State's election of offenses and the absence of a limiting instruction concerning extraneous acts. The Court of Appeals overruled both issues and affirmed the trial court's judgment.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Garcia v. State, 614 S.W.3d 749, 753 (Tex. Crim. App. 2019)
- Owings v. State, 541 S.W.3d 144, 150 (Tex. Crim. App. 2017)
- Rubalcado v. State, 424 S.W.3d 560, 571 (Tex. Crim. App. 2014)
- Bonilla v. State, 452 S.W.3d 811, 813 (Tex. Crim. App. 2014)
- Dunn v. State, 819 S.W.2d 510, 525 (Tex. Crim. App. 1991)
- Delgado v. State, 235 S.W.3d 244, 251 (Tex. Crim. App. 2007)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Court of Appeals Tenth Appellate District of Texas 10-25-00001-CR Thomas Allen Stanton, Appellant v. The State of Texas, Appellee On appeal from the 54th District Court of McLennan County, Texas Senior Judge Roy Sparkman, presiding Trial Court Cause No. 2019-1992-C2 JUSTICE HARRIS delivered the opinion of the Court. MEMORANDUM OPINION Thomas Allen Stanton was convicted of three counts of indecency with a child by contact and sentenced to 15 years in prison for each count.

Stanton was accused of touching the genitals and breast of his stepdaughter. The victim testified to several instances of each accusation of indecency. We affirm the convictions. ELECTION OF OFFENSES Stanton first takes issue with the timing of the State's election regarding which acts of indecency it would rely on to support the convictions, arguing that the trial court erred in allowing the State to make its election at the end of the presentation of all of the evidence instead of at the end of the State's case, as Stanton had requested.

In a sexual assault or indecency trial, where one act of sexual assault or indecency is alleged in the indictment and more than one act of sexual assault or indecency is shown by the evidence, the State must elect the act upon which it would rely for conviction See *Garcia v. State*, 614 S.W.3d 749, 753 (Tex. Crim. App. 2019); *Owings v. State*, 541 S.W.3d 144, 150 (Tex.

Crim. App. 2017); see also *Rubalcado v. State*, 424 S.W.3d 560, 571 (Tex. Crim. App. 2014) (regarding indecency offenses). Before the State rests, the trial court has discretion in directing the State to make an election. *Garcia*, 614 S.W.3d at 753. But once the State rests its case in chief, upon a timely request by the defense, the trial court must order the State to make an election.

Owings, 541 S.W.3d at 150. Stanton's sole complaint on appeal is about the timing of the State's election. However, he did not object at trial to the timing of the election. Rather, he acquiesced in the trial court's decision to permit the State to make its election at the close of all of the evidence.

Accordingly, his argument on appeal is not preserved. See TEX. R. APP. P. 33.1; *Bonilla v. State*, 452 S.W.3d 811, 813 (Tex. Crim. App. 2014) ("The party who complains about the trial Stanton v. State Page 2 judge's action on direct appeal bears the burden of objecting at trial..."); *Dunn v. State*, 819 S.W.2d 510, 525 (Tex. Crim. App. 1991) (defendant failed to preserve issue for review when he acquiesced to the trial court's action contrary to his complaint).

Stanton's first issue is overruled. LIMITING INSTRUCTION Stanton next complains that the trial court erred in failing to give a limiting instruction in the jury charge regarding the extraneous acts of indecency which were testified to during the trial. When extraneous offense evidence is admitted against a party, Texas Rule of Evidence 105 provides that the trial court, "on request," must give a limiting instruction on the scope of the evidence and instruct the jury accordingly.

TEX. R. EVID. 105. But it is well-established that if a defendant does not request a limiting instruction under Rule 105 at the time the evidence is admitted, the trial judge has no obligation to limit the use of that evidence later in the jury charge. *Delgado v. State*, 235 S.W. 3d 244, 251 (Tex. Crim. App. 2007). Once such evidence is admitted without a limiting instruction, it is part of the general evidence and may be used for all purposes.

Id. at 251. Stanton seems to argue that because he requested the State to elect which acts of indecency on which it intended to rely, a limiting instruction need not be requested at the time the extraneous offenses were admitted.

However, *Stanton v. State* Page 3 the caselaw he provides does not stand for this proposition, and he does not cite us to any cases which make this holding. Accordingly, because Stanton did not ask for a limiting instruction when the evidence was admitted, he cannot now complain of the trial court's failure to give the instruction in the jury charge. See *Delgado v. State*, 235 S.W.

3d at 251. Issue two is overruled. CONCLUSION Having overruled each of Stanton's issues on appeal, we affirm the trial court's judgment. LEE HARRIS Justice OPINION DELIVERED and FILED: May 14, 2026 Before Justice Smith, Justice Harris, and Senior Justice Gabriel 1 Affirmed Do Not Publish CR25 1 The Honorable Lee Gabriel, Senior Justice (Retired) of the Second Court of Appeals, sitting by assignment of the Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

See TEX. GOV'T CODE §§ 74.003, 75.002, 75.003. *Stanton v. State* Page 4