

IOWA COURT OF APPEALS

State of Iowa v. Jamie Dwayne Luebs

No. 25-0355 (Iowa Ct. App. Jan. 28, 2026) · No. No. 25-0355 · Decided January 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The Iowa Court of Appeals dismissed Jamie Dwayne Luebs’s appeal from his sentence. Because the sentence matched the plea agreement, the court held that Luebs had not established good cause to appeal under Iowa Code section 814.6(1)(a)(3), and the court therefore lacked jurisdiction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Iowa Court of Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Greer, P.J.; Schumacher, J.; Ahlers, J.
JURISDICTION	Iowa Court of Appeals
DECIDED	January 28, 2026
DOCKET	No. 25-0355
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed his sentence, asserting that the sentencing court abused its discretion by failing to provide sufficient reasons for imposing a nine-year consecutive sentence. The State argued that the Iowa Court of Appeals lacked jurisdiction because the sentence conformed to the plea agreement and defendant had not established good cause for the appeal.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court did not reach the asserted abuse-of-discretion standard because it concluded that it lacked jurisdiction to review the appeal.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Jamie Dwayne Luebs v. State of Iowa

TOPICS

[appellate jurisdiction](#)[sentencing](#)[plea bargaining](#)[criminal procedure](#)[appellate procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[criminal procedure](#)[appellate procedure](#)[sentencing](#)[plea bargaining](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Iowa Court of Appeals had jurisdiction to review an appeal from a sentence imposed in conformity with the defendant's plea agreement when the defendant did not establish good cause under Iowa Code section 814.6(1)(a)(3).
2. Whether the defendant's challenge to the sentencing court's stated reasons could be considered when the sentence was the agreed sentence and the case did not involve a class A felony.

HOLDINGS

1. When the sentencing court imposes the sentence agreed to in the plea agreement, the case does not involve a class A felony, and the defendant identifies no sentencing error outside the scope of the plea agreement, the defendant has not established good cause to appeal under Iowa Code section 814.6(1)(a)(3).
2. The Iowa Court of Appeals lacked jurisdiction to consider Luebs's appeal because he did not establish good cause to appeal.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Therefore, under our case law, because Luebs has not established good cause to appeal pursuant to Iowa Code section 814.6(1)(a)(3) (2025), we lack jurisdiction to consider the appeal.” (3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Luebs entered a guilty plea under an agreement providing for consecutive prison terms of up to five years for operating while intoxicated, two years for driving while barred, and two years for child endangerment. The sentencing court imposed the same nine-year consecutive sentence contemplated by the agreement. Luebs challenged the sentence on the ground that the court failed to give sufficient reasons, but he did not allege an error concerning the plea agreement itself.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Luebs pleaded guilty pursuant to an agreement under which he would receive consecutive prison terms not exceeding five years for OWI, two years for driving while barred, and two years for child endangerment. The Iowa District Court for Warren County imposed the agreed nine-year consecutive sentence. Luebs appealed, and the Iowa Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction because he did not establish good cause under Iowa Code section 814.6(1)(a)(3).

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- State v. Cart, No. 23-1338, 2025 WL 854775, at *2 (Iowa Ct. App. Mar. 19, 2025)
- State v. Taylor, No. 24-1320, 2025 WL 1322767, at *1 (Iowa Ct. App. May 7, 2025)

- State v. Wilbourn, 974 N.W.2d 58, 66 (Iowa 2022)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA _____ No. 25-0355 Filed January 28, 2026 _____ State of Iowa, Plaintiff–Appellee, v. Jamie Dwayne Luebs, Defendant–Appellant. _____ Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Warren County, The Honorable John D. Lloyd, Judge. _____ APPEAL DISMISSED _____ John C. Heinicke of Kragnes & Associates, P.C., West Des Moines, attorney for appellant.

Brenna Bird, Attorney General, and Joseph D. Ferrentino, Assistant Attorney General, attorneys for appellee. _____ Considered without oral argument by Greer, P.J., and Schumacher and Ahlers, JJ. Opinion by Greer, P.J. 1 GREER, Presiding Judge. Jamie Luebs asserts the sentencing court abused its discretion by failing to give sufficient reasons for imposing a nine-year consecutive sentence.

The State disagrees and points to Luebs’s plea agreement where he agreed he would serve prison time not to exceed five years for the operating while intoxicated (OWI) charge, two years for the driving while barred charge, and two years for the child endangerment charge, with the sentences to be served consecutively, and the fact that the sentencing court imposed this same sentence.¹ The State contends we do not have jurisdiction to consider this appeal.

We agree. Because the sentencing court imposed the sentence agreed to in the plea agreement and the case does not involve a class “A” felony, there is not “good cause” to consider this appeal. State v. Cart, No. 23-1338, 2025 WL 854775, at *2 (Iowa Ct. App. Mar. 19, 2025) (recognizing that the question remains unanswered by our supreme court, ² but collecting cases from this court that have “routinely declined to find good cause”); see also State v. Taylor, No. 24-1320, 2025 WL 1322767, at *1 (Iowa Ct.

App. May 7, 2025) (“In situations such as this one, in which the defendant does not allege a procedural error and appeals a sentence that conforms with the plea agreement, we have continually determined the defendant failed to establish good cause.”). And, Luebs admitted that he “received the exact sentence on Charges for two other counts of child endangerment and a habitual-offender 1 enhancement were dismissed as a part of the plea agreement.

² “We save for another day the question of whether good cause exists to solely appeal an agreed sentence without an accompanying sentencing error outside the scope of the plea agreement.” State v. Wilbourn, 974 N.W.2d 58, 66 (Iowa 2022). ² February 25, 2025, that matched the terms and conditions when he signed the guilty plea on January 6, 2025, down to an incorrect fine of \$1,025.00 instead of a fine of \$3,175.00 for Count I, OWI-3rd.” Luebs received the agreed-upon sentence and raised no error related to the plea agreement.

Therefore, under our case law, because Luebs has not established good cause to appeal pursuant to Iowa Code section 814.6(1)(a)(3) (2025), we lack jurisdiction to consider the appeal. APPEAL DISMISSED. 3