

COURT OF APPEALS OF ARKANSAS

Robert Hoffman, Jr. v. State of Arkansas

Hoffman, 2026 Ark. App. 164 (Ark. Ct. App. 2026) · No. CR-25-451 · Decided March 11, 2026

SUMMARY

The Arkansas Court of Appeals affirmed Robert Hoffman, Jr.'s convictions for fleeing, reckless driving, and speeding after a bench trial. The court held that substantial evidence supported the fleeing conviction because the circumstances, including Hoffman's acceleration, erratic driving, and the pursuing officer's activated lights and siren, supported an inference that he knowingly fled. The court deferred to the circuit court's credibility determination rejecting Hoffman's testimony that he was unaware of the pursuit.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Arkansas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	N. Mark Klappenbach, Chief Judge; Tucker, J.; Hixson, J.
JURISDICTION	Arkansas Court of Appeals
DECIDED	March 11, 2026
DOCKET	CR-25-451
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Hoffman appealed his convictions following a bench trial, challenging only the sufficiency of the evidence supporting his conviction for fleeing.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a sufficiency-of-the-evidence challenge, the court views the evidence in the light most favorable to the State and considers only evidence supporting the judgment. The verdict is affirmed if supported by substantial evidence. The appellate court does not second-guess the fact-finder's credibility determinations.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Robert Hoffman, Jr. v. State of Arkansas

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

appellate practice

evidence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether substantial evidence supported Hoffman's conviction for fleeing, including the required finding that he knowingly fled from an officer attempting to stop him.

HOLDINGS

1. Substantial evidence supported the finding that Hoffman knowingly fled from the trooper. The circuit court could infer knowledge from the totality of the circumstances, including the activated lights and siren, Hoffman's side mirrors, his acceleration, erratic lane changes, and his looking back toward the pursuing trooper.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The fact finder is not required to lay aside common sense and may infer guilt from improbable explanations or incriminating conduct.” (3)

“The circuit court found that Hoffman’s “manner of driving was clearly an attempt to avoid that stop.” (3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Trooper Weatherly pursued Hoffman after observing him operating a motorcycle at approximately ninety miles per hour in a sixty-five-mile-per-hour zone. After the trooper activated his lights and later his siren, Hoffman accelerated to more than 130 miles per hour, crossed multiple lanes, and weaved among vehicles; he also looked back toward the trooper and accelerated while the trooper was nearby. Hoffman eventually pulled over after approximately one minute and forty seconds, but testified that he did not knowingly flee and did not see the lights or hear the siren until shortly before stopping.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Pulaski County Circuit Court convicted Hoffman after a bench trial of fleeing, reckless driving, and speeding. Hoffman appealed, arguing that the State failed to prove that he knowingly fled from an officer. The Arkansas Court of Appeals affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Parker v. State, 2025 Ark. 55, 709 S.W.3d 807
- Maina v. State, 2025 Ark. App. 38, 704 S.W.3d 364
- Smith v. State, 2023 Ark. App. 57, 660 S.W.3d 622
- London v. State, 2025 Ark. App. 444, 721 S.W.3d 792

- *Reece v. State*, 2025 Ark. App. 68, 704 S.W.3d 872
- *Davis v. State*, 2024 Ark. 49, 685 S.W.3d 909
- *McKinley v. State*, 2026 Ark. App. 85, __ S.W.3d __
- *Jenkins v. State*, 2020 Ark. App. 45, 593 S.W.3d 51

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