

IOWA COURT OF APPEALS

State of Iowa v. Bryan Francisco Cordona

No. 25-0083 (Iowa Ct. App. Jan. 28, 2026) · No. No. 25-0083 · Decided January 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The Iowa Court of Appeals dismissed Bryan Francisco Cordona’s appeal from sentences imposed after he pleaded guilty to two counts of domestic abuse assault. The court held that Cordona failed to show good cause to appeal an agreed sentencing provision and therefore lacked appellate jurisdiction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Iowa Court of Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Langholz, J.; Chicchelly, P.J.; Buller, J.
JURISDICTION	Iowa Court of Appeals
DECIDED	January 28, 2026
DOCKET	No. 25-0083
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Cordona appealed the sentences imposed after he pleaded guilty to two counts of domestic abuse assault, challenging a personal-search provision in the agreed sentencing terms.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court addressed appellate jurisdiction de novo as a threshold matter; it did not reach the merits of the legality of the search condition.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Bryan Francisco Cordona v. State of Iowa

TOPICS

- appellate jurisdiction
- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure
- plea bargaining
- sentencing

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- sentencing
- plea bargaining

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Cordona demonstrated good cause to appeal sentences imposed pursuant to an agreed plea bargain after pleading guilty to offenses other than a class A felony.
2. Whether the court could reach Cordona's challenge to the agreed personal-search probation condition.

HOLDINGS

1. A defendant who pleaded guilty to offenses other than a class A felony must show good cause to appeal, and a challenge directed solely at nondiscretionary or agreed sentencing terms, without an alleged sentencing error extrinsic to the plea, does not establish good cause.
2. A defendant may not claim that the court erred by adopting in its entirety the terms of a rule 2.10(3) plea agreement that the defendant requested and accepted.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“And because he pleaded guilty to offenses other than a class “A” felony, Cordona must show good cause to appeal.” (at 1)

“As a result, he cannot now claim the court erred by granting his request to adopt the agreement in its entirety.” (at 2)

“Because Cordona has not shown good cause, we lack jurisdiction and dismiss his appeal.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Cordona pleaded guilty to two counts of domestic abuse assault, second offense. Under the plea agreement resolving the aggravated misdemeanor, he agreed to one year in jail with all but fourteen days suspended, two years of probation, and a condition allowing searches of his person, car, or residence during probation. The district court accepted the agreement and imposed the agreed sentence, after which Cordona challenged the personal-search provision on appeal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

In December 2024, Cordona pleaded guilty to two counts of domestic abuse assault, second offense. The Iowa District Court for Plymouth County accepted a rule 2.10(3) plea agreement and imposed the agreed sentence, including a probation condition requiring him to submit to searches. Cordona appealed, but the Iowa Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal for lack of appellate jurisdiction because he did not establish good cause to appeal an agreed sentence.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- State v. Damme, 944 N.W.2d 98, 100 (Iowa 2020)
- State v. Wilbourn, 974 N.W.2d 58, 66 (Iowa 2022)

- State v. Cart, No. 23-1338, 2025 WL 854775, at *2 (Iowa Ct. App. Mar. 19, 2025)
- State v. Spencer, No. 23-0844, 2024 WL 3518267, at *1 (Iowa Ct. App. July 24, 2024)
- State v. Brumley, No. 23-1693, 2024 WL 2842224, at *1 (Iowa Ct. App. June 5, 2024)
- State v. Hightower, 8 N.W.3d 527, 542 (Iowa 2024)
- State v. Rasmus, 90 N.W.2d 429, 430 (Iowa 1958)

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