

WASHINGTON COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION TWO

Georgia Woods v. Gregory Owens

No. 60276-8-II (Wash. Ct. App. Mar. 24, 2026) · No. 60276-8-II · Decided March 24, 2026

SUMMARY

The Washington Court of Appeals, Division Two, affirmed the denial of Gregory Owens’s motion to terminate a permanent domestic violence protection order protecting Georgia Woods. The court held that RCW 7.105.500 does not require a mathematical balancing of unweighted factors and concluded that Owens failed to prove a substantial change in circumstances warranting termination. An order dated March 24, 2026, granted motions to publish the previously unpublished opinion filed November 12, 2025.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Washington Court of Appeals, Division Two
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Lee, J.; Maxa, P.J.; Price, J.
JURISDICTION	Washington Court of Appeals, Division Two
DECIDED	March 24, 2026
DOCKET	60276-8-II
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Gregory Owens appealed the superior court's denial of his motion to revise a commissioner's denial of his motion to terminate a permanent domestic violence protection order.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The appellate court reviews the superior court's decision on termination of a domestic violence protection order for abuse of discretion. A decision is an abuse of discretion if it is manifestly unreasonable or based on untenable grounds or reasons. Statutory interpretation is reviewed de novo.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Washington Court of Appeals opinion
PARTIES	Gregory Owens v. Georgia Woods

TOPICS

- domestic violence
- family law procedure
- statutory interpretation
- appellate procedure
- standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

family law

domestic violence

appellate procedure

statutory interpretation

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether RCW 7.105.500(4)'s unweighted factors require a mathematical or checklist-based comparison to determine whether a respondent has shown a substantial change in circumstances warranting termination of a protection order.
2. Whether the superior court abused its discretion by finding that Owens failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence a substantial change in circumstances such that he would not resume, engage in, or attempt to engage in acts of domestic violence if the order were terminated.

HOLDINGS

1. The unweighted factors in RCW 7.105.500(4) do not create a mathematical checklist or require the superior court to count factors for and against termination. The superior court has discretion to determine which factors are relevant and how much significance to assign to the evidence concerning each factor.
2. The superior court did not abuse its discretion by finding that Owens failed to prove a substantial change in circumstances warranting termination of the permanent domestic violence protection order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“There is no indication that the legislature intended RCW 7.105.500(4) to create a checklist of items that dictates with mathematical precision whether there has been a substantial change of circumstances.” (8)

“It is up to the superior court to determine which factors are relevant and how significant the evidence related to that factor is in determining whether a respondent has met their burden to prove a substantial change of circumstances.” (8)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Woods obtained a permanent domestic violence protection order against Owens in 1999 after Owens rear-ended her car, took her wallet and phone, threatened to destroy her property, and verbally and physically intimidated her. In 2024, Owens sought termination, relying on the passage of more than 25 years, completion of domestic-violence evaluation and treatment, and his claimed acceptance of responsibility. Woods opposed termination, asserting that Owens had violated the order through a later sexual encounter that resulted in a pregnancy and abortion, and that she continued to fear him. Owens did not acknowledge or address that alleged violation in his filings or treatment materials.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Georgia Woods obtained a permanent domestic violence protection order against Owens in 1999. Owens moved to terminate the order in 2022 and again in 2024. A court commissioner denied the 2024 motion, finding that Owens had not shown a substantial change in circumstances. The superior court reviewed the matter de novo, denied Owens's motion to revise, and Owens appealed. The Court of Appeals affirmed and subsequently ordered the opinion published on March 24, 2026; the underlying opinion was filed November 12, 2025.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- State v. Ramer, 151 Wn.2d 106, 113, 86 P.3d 132 (2004)
- In re Parentage of Hilborn, 114 Wn. App. 275, 278, 58 P.3d 905 (2002)
- In re Marriage of Stewart, 133 Wn. App. 545, 550, 137 P.3d 25 (2006), review denied, 160 Wn.2d 1011 (2007)
- Fowler v. Fowler, 8 Wn. App. 2d 225, 232, 234, 439 P.3d 701 (2019)
- Nelson v. P.S.C., Inc., 2 Wn.3d 227, 233, 535 P.3d 418 (2023)
- Royal Oaks Country Club v. Department of Revenue, 2 Wn.3d 562, 568, 541 P.3d 336 (2024)
- In re Marriage of Littlefield, 133 Wn.2d 39, 47, 940 P.2d 1362 (1997)

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