

SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

In the Interest of D.G., A Minor

No. 2024-CA-00868-SCT · No. No. 2024-CA-00868-SCT · Decided March 19, 2026

SUMMARY

The Mississippi Supreme Court dismissed D.G.'s appeal from a youth court restitution order for lack of jurisdiction. The court held that the restitution order was not a final, appealable order because it did not terminate the youth court's jurisdiction over the minor, and that interlocutory review was required. The court therefore did not reach D.G.'s arguments concerning the attempted-burglary adjudications or the sufficiency of the restitution evidence.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Mississippi
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Ishee, J.; Randolph, C.J.; Coleman, P.J.; Griffis, J.; Sullivan, J.; Branning, J.; King, P.J.
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Mississippi
DECIDED	March 19, 2026
DOCKET	No. 2024-CA-00868-SCT
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	D.G. directly appealed a youth-court restitution order imposing joint and several liability on D.G. and his mother for \$481.08 in damages. The Mississippi Supreme Court dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction because the restitution order was not a final, appealable order.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Youth-court factual findings are reviewed by considering the evidence in the light most favorable to the State; the judgment must be affirmed if supported by the record and reversed if reasonable minds could not have reached the youth court's conclusion. Questions of law are reviewed de novo. The appeal was dismissed on a jurisdictional issue rather than decided under the factual standard of review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	D.G. v. State of Mississippi

TOPICS

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a restitution order entered by the youth court is a final, appealable order under Mississippi Code section 43-21-651(1)(a).
2. Whether the Mississippi Supreme Court had jurisdiction over D.G.'s direct appeal from the restitution order.

HOLDINGS

1. A youth-court restitution order is not a final order under Mississippi Code section 43-21-651(1)(a) when it does not terminate the youth court's jurisdiction over the minor.
2. The Supreme Court lacked jurisdiction to consider D.G.'s direct appeal because the restitution order was not final; D.G. should have sought interlocutory review instead.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“As the restitution order is not a final order, this Court lacks jurisdiction to consider the appeal, and the appeal is dismissed.” (¶ 10)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

D.G. admitted charges arising from a burglary at Kreol Elementary School and attempted burglaries at Dollar General and Family Dollar. The youth court withheld disposition, placed him on informal probation, and continued to monitor his behavior and mental-health treatment. After a restitution hearing, the court found \$1,443.25 in damage to Dollar General and ordered D.G. and his mother jointly and severally liable for one-third of that amount, or \$481.08.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Jackson County Youth Court adjudicated D.G. delinquent after he admitted charges involving one burglary and two attempted burglaries. The court withheld disposition and placed him on informal probation, later conducting a restitution hearing and ordering D.G. and his mother to pay \$481.08. D.G. filed a direct appeal challenging the underlying adjudication and the restitution award, but the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal because the restitution order did not terminate the youth court's jurisdiction and therefore required interlocutory rather than direct review.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- In re Int. of S.A.M., 826 So. 2d 1266, 1274 (Miss. 2002)
- In re Int. of S.B. v. State, 566 So. 2d 1276, 1278 (Miss. 1990)
- R.W. v. Miss. Dep't of Child Prot. Servs., 395 So. 3d 63, 68 (Miss. 2024)
- In re Int. of C.R., 604 So. 2d 1079, 1083 (Miss. 1992)
- In re Int. of D.O., 798 So. 2d 417, 421 (Miss. 2001)
- In re Int. of M.R.L., 488 So. 2d 788, 790-91 (Miss. 1986)
- R.P. v. State (In re Int. of J.P.), 151 So. 3d 204, 208 (Miss. 2014)

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