

TENNESSEE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

State of Tennessee v. Ronald Eugene Fox, II

No. E2024-01374-CCA-R3-CD · No. No. E2024-01374-CCA-R3-CD · Decided January 21, 2026

SUMMARY

The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed Ronald Eugene Fox II's Knox County convictions for first degree murder, tampering with evidence, and initiating a false report. The court rejected his challenges to the sufficiency of the evidence, denial of a continuance, refusal to instruct on voluntary manslaughter, and cumulative error.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Matthew J. Wilson; Robert W. Wedemeyer, Presiding Judge; Camille R. McMullen
JURISDICTION	Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals
DECIDED	January 21, 2026
DOCKET	No. E2024-01374-CCA-R3-CD
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed as of right from Knox County Criminal Court judgments entered after a jury convicted him of premeditated first degree murder, tampering with evidence, and initiating a false report.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The sufficiency of the evidence is reviewed under Jackson v. Virginia by determining whether, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution and allowing the strongest legitimate view of the evidence and reasonable inferences, any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements beyond a reasonable doubt. The denial of a motion to continue is reviewed for abuse of discretion, and reversal requires both an abuse of discretion and prejudice. Jury-instruction issues not preserved by a written request are reviewed, if at all, for plain error.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals opinion
PARTIES	Ronald Eugene Fox, II v. State of Tennessee

TOPICS

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the evidence was sufficient to support Fox's conviction for premeditated first degree murder.
2. Whether the trial court abused its discretion by denying Fox's second motion to continue so a defense digital-forensics expert could further review cell-phone and related data.
3. Whether the trial court erred by failing to instruct the jury on voluntary manslaughter as a lesser included offense of first degree murder.
4. Whether the cumulative effect of the alleged errors warranted reversal.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence was sufficient for a rational jury to find beyond a reasonable doubt that Fox intentionally and premeditatedly killed the victim.
2. The trial court did not abuse its discretion in denying Fox's second motion to continue, and Fox failed to establish prejudice.
3. Fox waived plenary appellate review of the omitted voluntary-manslaughter instruction by failing to submit a written request, and he failed to establish plain error or entitlement to relief.
4. Fox was not entitled to relief under the cumulative-error doctrine because the court identified no individual error warranting relief.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“In our view, this evidence supports Defendant’s conviction of first degree premeditated murder.” (14)

“We have not concluded there was any error that warrants relief, thus, there is nothing to accumulate.” (17)

“Based upon the foregoing, we affirm the judgments of the trial court.” (18)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Fox's convictions arose from the shooting death of his girlfriend, Constance Danyell Davison, inside the Knoxville home they shared on May 22, 2021. The victim suffered two close-range nine-millimeter gunshot wounds to the head while crouched behind a laundry-room door; police found no signs of forced entry, no firearm, and no evidence of robbery. Evidence showed that Fox regularly carried a nine-millimeter handgun, had argued with the victim before the shooting, gave investigators inconsistent accounts of his whereabouts, possessed gunshot-residue particles on his clothing, and failed to render aid or promptly call 911. Cell-phone records and testimony from Fox's mother contradicted his account that he spent most of the evening away from the residence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A Knox County grand jury charged Fox with premeditated first degree murder, tampering with evidence, and initiating a false report. The trial court denied his second motion to continue, denied a motion for judgment of acquittal, and the jury convicted him as charged. The court imposed a life sentence for first degree murder and concurrent Range II sentences of ten years for evidence tampering and eight years for initiating a false report. The trial court denied Fox's motion for new trial, and the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Jackson v. Virginia, 443 U.S. 307, 319 (1979)
- State v. Davis, 354 S.W.3d 718, 729 (Tenn. 2011)
- State v. Williams, 558 S.W.3d 633, 638 (Tenn. 2018)
- State v. Dorantes, 331 S.W.3d 370, 379 (Tenn. 2011)
- State v. Sisk, 343 S.W.3d 60, 65 (Tenn. 2011)
- State v. Campbell, 245 S.W.3d 331, 335 (Tenn. 2008)
- State v. Stephens, 521 S.W.3d 718, 724 (Tenn. 2017)
- State v. Reynolds, 635 S.W.3d 893, 915-17 (Tenn. 2021)
- State v. Young, 196 S.W.3d 85, 108 (Tenn. 2006)
- State v. Davidson, 121 S.W.3d 600, 615 (Tenn. 2003)
- State v. Rimmer, 250 S.W.3d 12, 40 (Tenn. 2008)
- State v. Odom, 137 S.W.3d 572, 589 (Tenn. 2004)
- State v. Russell, 10 S.W.3d 270, 275 (Tenn. Crim. App. 1999)
- State v. Hines, 919 S.W.2d 573, 579 (Tenn. Crim. App. 1995)
- In re Braylee B., No. E2020-01408-COA-R3-PT, 2021 WL 1977187, at *9 (Tenn. Ct. App. May 18, 2021)
- State v. Winston, No. W2021-01315-CCA-R3-CD, 2022 WL 17665684, at *18 (Tenn. Crim. App. Dec. 14, 2022)
- State v. Rowland, 520 S.W.3d 542, 545 (Tenn. 2017)
- State v. Fayne, 451 S.W.3d 362, 371 (Tenn. 2014)
- State v. Linville, 647 S.W.3d 344, 353-54 (Tenn. 2022)
- Moore v. State, 485 S.W.3d 411, 421 (Tenn. 2016)
- State v. Williams, 977 S.W.2d 101, 106 (Tenn. 1998)
- State v. Hester, 324 S.W.3d 1, 76 (Tenn. 2010)
- State v. Leath, 461 S.W.3d 73, 116 (Tenn. Crim. App. 2013)
- Williams v. State, No. W2013-00555-CCA-R3-HC, 2013 WL 5493568, at *2 (Tenn. Crim. App. Sept. 30, 2013)

- Penley v. State, No. E2004-00129-CCA-R3-PC, 2004 WL 2439287, at *3 (Tenn. Crim. App. Nov. 1, 2004)
- State v. Miller, 638 S.W.3d 136, 153 n.14 (Tenn. 2021)
- State v. Miller, No. W2019-00197-CCA-R3-DD, 2020 WL 5626227, at *12 (Tenn. Crim. App. Sept. 18, 2020)

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