

COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

Paul R. Solt, Jr. v. State of Indiana

25A-CR-2484 · No. 25A-CR-2484 · Decided April 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The Indiana Court of Appeals affirmed Paul R. Solt, Jr.'s conviction for Level 5 felony child solicitation. The court held that the evidence was sufficient to establish that Solt believed he was arranging a paid sexual encounter with a fifteen-year-old and that the State disproved his entrapment defense.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Indiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Senior Judge Robb; Judge Kenworthy; Judge Felix
JURISDICTION	Indiana Court of Appeals
DECIDED	April 30, 2026
DOCKET	25A-CR-2484
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Solt appealed his bench-trial conviction for Level 5 felony child solicitation, challenging the sufficiency of the evidence and the State's rebuttal of his entrapment defense.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court neither reweighs the evidence nor reassesses witness credibility. It considers the probative evidence supporting the verdict and reasonable inferences, affirming when each material element is supported by evidence from which a rational factfinder could find guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. For entrapment, the State must disprove one statutory element beyond a reasonable doubt.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Indiana Court of Appeals opinion
PARTIES	Paul R. Solt, Jr. v. State of Indiana

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the State presented sufficient evidence that Solt believed he was soliciting a person at least fourteen but less than sixteen years old for a sexual encounter.
2. Whether the State presented sufficient evidence to disprove Solt's entrapment defense by showing that police inducement was absent.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence was sufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Solt believed he was arranging to meet a fifteen-year-old for a paid sexual encounter.
2. The State presented sufficient evidence to disprove police inducement and thereby rebut Solt's entrapment defense; the officers merely afforded Solt an opportunity to commit the offense and did not persuade him to do so.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"When a defendant challenges the sufficiency of the evidence to sustain a conviction or disprove a defense of entrapment, "[w]e neither reweigh the evidence nor reassess the credibility of witnesses." (p. 5)

"When a defendant raises an entrapment defense, the State must bear the burden of disproving one of the statutory elements beyond a reasonable doubt." (p. 7)

"This evidence is sufficient to demonstrate that the officers did not persuade Solt to commit his offense; they merely afforded him an opportunity." (p. 8)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Police conducted an undercover child-solicitation sting using fake online profiles and text conversations. An undercover officer told Solt that the purported sex worker was fifteen, and Solt expressed concern about the person's age but continued communicating, agreed to drive to a hotel, and entered the designated room. After his arrest, Solt admitted that he believed he was arranging to have sex with a fifteen-year-old and claimed that the officer's eagerness and persistence overcame his judgment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The State charged Solt with Level 5 felony child solicitation in the Brown Circuit Court. Solt waived a jury, proceeded to a bench trial, raised entrapment, was found guilty, and was sentenced. The Indiana Court of Appeals affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Griesemer v. State, 26 N.E.3d 606, 608 (Ind. 2015)
- Neville v. State, 802 N.E.2d 516, 518 (Ind. Ct. App. 2004), trans. denied
- Van Auken v. State, 233 N.E.3d 1042, 1051-52 (Ind. Ct. App. 2024), trans. denied
- Mobley v. State, 27 N.E.3d 1191, 1197 (Ind. Ct. App. 2015)

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