

OHIO COURT OF APPEALS, SIXTH APPELLATE DISTRICT

State v. Byars

2025-Ohio-5733 · No. WD-25-025 · Decided December 23, 2025

SUMMARY

The Sixth District Court of Appeals of Ohio affirmed the Wood County Court of Common Pleas judgment sentencing Marion Byars to community control after terminating intervention in lieu of conviction. The court held that Byars’s guilty pleas waived her challenge to the manifest weight of the evidence and that the trial court was not required to establish a factual basis for the pleas during the Crim.R. 11 colloquy.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Ohio Court of Appeals, Sixth Appellate District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Christine E. Mayle; Thomas J. Osowik; Gene A. Zumda
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Sixth Appellate District
DECIDED	December 23, 2025
DOCKET	WD-25-025
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Byars appealed her convictions and community-control sentence imposed after the trial court terminated intervention in lieu of conviction following violations of its terms.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the legal effect of Byars's guilty pleas and whether the trial court complied with Crim.R. 11(C); it did not reach the manifest-weight challenge because the guilty pleas waived that issue.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Ohio Court of Appeals decision
PARTIES	Marion Byars v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- plea bargaining
- appellate procedure
- preservation of error

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal law
- criminal procedure
- appellate practice

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court erred by accepting Byars's guilty pleas and entering findings of guilt without independently determining or placing on the record a factual basis for the offenses.
2. Whether the absence of a factual recitation rendered the pleas invalid under Crim.R. 11(C)(2)(a).
3. Whether Byars could challenge the manifest weight of the evidence after pleading guilty.

HOLDINGS

1. A trial court is not required to determine that a factual basis exists for a defendant's guilty plea as part of the Crim.R. 11(C) plea colloquy; therefore, the trial court did not err by failing to inquire into the facts underlying Byars's offenses.
2. A defendant who pleads guilty waives the right to challenge the manifest weight of the evidence on appeal.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“We have held that a ‘guilty plea itself provides the necessary proof of the elements of the crime, thus relieving the trial court of the obligation to determine whether a factual basis exists to support the plea.’” (¶ 8)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Byars was indicted for trespass in a habitation when a person is present or likely to be present and criminal damaging or endangering. She pleaded guilty and stipulated in writing and during the intervention hearing that a factual basis supported conviction, after which the trial court placed her on intervention in lieu of conviction. She later violated the intervention terms by testing positive for THC twice; she chose termination of intervention, conviction on the charged offenses, and community control rather than continued intervention with additional conditions.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Byars pleaded guilty to trespass in a habitation and criminal damaging or endangering under an agreement that the State would not oppose intervention in lieu of conviction. The trial court accepted the pleas after a Crim.R. 11 colloquy and placed her on intervention in lieu of conviction. After Byars tested positive for THC twice and admitted violating the terms, the trial court terminated intervention, entered findings of guilt, and sentenced her to community control. The Sixth District affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- State v. Gibson, 2023-Ohio-1776, ¶ 12 (6th Dist.)
- State v. Jones, 2017-Ohio-342, ¶ 8 (6th Dist.)

- State v. Williams, 2004-Ohio-4856, ¶ 12 (6th Dist.)
- State v. Norris, 2019-Ohio-1488, ¶ 10 (6th Dist.)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

[Cite as State v. Byars, 2025-Ohio-5733.] IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO SIXTH APPELLATE DISTRICT WOOD COUNTY STATE OF OHIO COURT OF APPEALS NO. WD-25-025 APPELLEE TRIAL COURT NO. 2024CR0187 V. MARION BYARS DECISION AND JUDGMENT APPELLANT Decided: December 23, 2025 ***** Paul A. Dobson, Wood County Prosecutor and David T. Harold, Chief Assistant Prosecutor, for appellee.

Laurel A. Kendall, for appellant. ***** MAYLE, J. {¶ 1} In this appeal, defendant-appellant, Marion Byars, appeals the April 16, 2025 judgment of the Wood County Court of Common Pleas sentencing her to community control following her violation of the terms of intervention in lieu of conviction (“ILC”).

For the following reasons, we affirm. {¶ 2} Byars was indicted on one count each of trespass in a habitation when a person is present or likely to be present in violation of R.C. 2911.12(B), a fourth-degree felony, and criminal damaging or endangering in violation of R.C. 2909.06(A)(1), a second-degree misdemeanor. {¶ 3} Byars and the State reached an agreement under which Byars pleaded guilty to the indictment, and the State agreed not to oppose ILC.

In the written plea agreement, Byars “stipulate[d that] there is a factual basis to support a finding of guilt for” both counts of the indictment. During the ILC hearing Byars again “stipulate[d] to the facts that would be presented would be sufficient to lead to a conviction.” After conducting a thorough Crim.R. 11 plea colloquy, the trial court accepted Byars’s pleas, withheld a guilty finding on the pleas, and placed Byars on a two-year term of ILC. {¶ 4} Five months later, Byars tested positive for THC in violation of the terms of her ILC.

Byars admitted to the violation. {¶ 5} When the trial court held a disposition hearing about two months later, Byars again tested positive for THC. At that point, the court gave Byars two options. The court would either terminate ILC, convict her of the offenses, and place her on community control, or keep her on ILC, add time to her ILC term, and send her to a community-based correctional facility.

Byars chose the first option, so the trial court terminated her ILC, found her guilty of trespass in a habitation when a person is present or likely to be present and criminal damaging or endangering, and sentenced her to community control.

The trial court did not conduct another plea colloquy or hear any facts of the underlying crimes during the disposition hearing. 2. {¶ 6} Byars now appeals, and raises the following assignment of

error: The trial court's finding of guilt as to the underlying offenses here was not supported by the manifest weight of the evidence, or in the alternative, did not comport with the requirements of Crim.

R 11(C), such that the conviction and resulting sentence here are arguably voidable. {¶ 7} In her brief, Byars argues that there was no recitation of facts related to the offenses in the indictment at either the ILC hearing or the disposition hearing, so the trial court's finding of guilt is not supported by the manifest weight of the evidence. Alternatively, she argues that the lack of a factual basis for her pleas made her enter her pleas without a full understanding of the nature of the charges against her, as required by Crim.R.

11(C)(2)(a). The State responds that Byars stipulated to a factual basis for her pleas, so she invited any error and cannot now complain of it. Even if we find that Byars did not invite the error, neither the State nor the trial court was required to put the factual basis for the pleas on the record.

Finally, the State argues that Byars waived her right to challenge the manifest weight of the evidence by pleading guilty. {¶ 8} By agreeing to plead guilty, a defendant waives the right to raise most issues on appeal. *State v. Gibson*, 2023-Ohio-1776, ¶ 12 (6th Dist.), citing *State v. Jones*, 2017-Ohio-342, ¶ 8 (6th Dist.). This includes challenging the manifest weight of the evidence.

Id., citing *State v. Williams*, 2004-Ohio-4856, ¶ 12 (6th Dist.). Additionally, “[w]e have held that a ‘guilty plea itself provides the necessary proof of the elements of the crime, thus relieving the trial court of the obligation to determine whether a factual basis exists to support the plea.’” *Id.*, quoting *State v. Norris*, 2019-Ohio-1488, ¶ 10 (6th Dist.).

3. {¶ 9} Here, Byars pleaded guilty to trespass in a habitation when a person is present or likely to be present and criminal damaging or endangering after the trial court informed her of all of the information required under Crim.R. 11(C).

The court was not required to determine that a factual basis existed for Byars's pleas as part of its plea colloquy, so its failure to inquire about the facts was not error. And Byars waived her right to challenge the manifest weight of the evidence when she pleaded guilty, so we cannot consider that part of her argument.

In short, we find no error in the trial court's acceptance of Byars's pleas. Therefore, Byars's assignment of error is not well-taken. {¶ 10} Based on the foregoing, the April 16, 2025 judgment of the Wood County Court of Common Pleas is affirmed. Byars is ordered to pay the costs of this appeal under App.R. 24. Judgment affirmed. A certified copy of this entry shall constitute the mandate pursuant to App.R.

27. See also 6th Dist.Loc.App.R. 4. 4. State of Ohio, Plaintiff-Appellee v. Marion Byars, Defendant-Appellant Case No: WD-25-025 Thomas J. Osowik JUDGE Christine E. Mayle JUDGE Gene A. Zumda CONCUR. JUDGE This decision is subject to further editing by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Reporter of Decisions. Parties interested in viewing the final reported version are advised to visit the Ohio Supreme Court's web site at: <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/ROD/docs/>.

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