

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT
AMARILLO

Jose Chavez v. The State of Texas

No. 07-25-00222-CR · No. No. 07-25-00222-CR · Decided December 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The Seventh Court of Appeals of Texas affirmed Jose Chavez’s conviction for felony driving while intoxicated following a guilty plea. The court held that the totality of the circumstances, including Chavez’s admission that he moved the vehicle and evidence of intoxication, supported probable cause for his arrest and did not require suppression of the blood-test results.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the Seventh District of Texas at Amarillo
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Brian Quinn, Chief Justice; Doss, Justice; Yarbrough, Justice
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals for the Seventh District of Texas at Amarillo
DECIDED	December 30, 2025
DOCKET	No. 07-25-00222-CR
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from a conviction for felony driving while intoxicated following a guilty plea, challenging the denial of a motion to suppress blood-test results.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential; memorandum opinion marked do not publish.
PARTIES	Jose Chavez v. The State of Texas

TOPICS

suppression of evidence probable cause criminal procedure evidence appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law criminal procedure DWI

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the trial court erred in denying Chavez’s motion to suppress blood-test results because the arrest allegedly lacked probable cause.

2. Whether the circumstances, including Chavez's admission that he moved the vehicle while intoxicated, established that he operated a motor vehicle for purposes of the Texas driving-while-intoxicated statute.

HOLDINGS

1. The totality of the circumstances provided a reasonable person with probable cause to believe that Chavez operated a motor vehicle while intoxicated and committed the offense of driving while intoxicated.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Next, a person commits the offense of driving while intoxicated if he “is intoxicated while operating a motor vehicle in a public place.”” (at 1)

“Furthermore, one operates a vehicle when the totality of the circumstances demonstrates “that the defendant took action to affect the functioning of his vehicle in a manner that would enable the vehicle’s use.”” (at 1-2)

“The totality of circumstances at bar provided a reasonable person to believe appellant “operated” the GMC pickup while intoxicated; that is, he committed the crime of driving while intoxicated.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Chavez was investigated and arrested for driving while intoxicated. He told police that another person was responsible for making him drive forward, thereby admitting that he moved the vehicle, and he acknowledged that the evidence supported his intoxication. The trial court denied suppression of the blood-test results, and Chavez challenged the existence of probable cause to arrest.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Chavez pleaded guilty to felony driving while intoxicated in the 364th District Court of Lubbock County. The trial court denied his motion to suppress blood-test results, and Chavez appealed that ruling, arguing that his arrest lacked probable cause because he did not operate a motor vehicle.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Denton v. State, 911 S.W.2d 388, 389-90 (Tex. Crim. App. 1995)
- State v. Espinosa, 666 S.W.3d 659, 668-69 (Tex. Crim. App. 2023)
- Quinones v. State, 325 S.W.3d 801, 803 (Tex. App.—Amarillo 2010, no pet.)