

COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO, NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, SUMMIT
COUNTY

State v. Hoffmeyer

2026-Ohio-239 · No. C.A. No. 31360 · Decided January 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The Ninth District Court of Appeals of Ohio affirmed Samuel Hoffmeyer’s conviction for felony domestic violence. The court held that sufficient evidence supported the finding that Hoffmeyer and the victim cohabited as spouses, rejected the manifest-weight challenge, and concluded that trial counsel was not constitutionally ineffective. Judge Carr dissented from the ineffective-assistance determination.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Ohio, Ninth Judicial District, Summit County
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Betty Sutton; Stevenson, P.J.; Carr, J.
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Ninth Judicial District, Summit County
DECIDED	January 28, 2026
DOCKET	C.A. No. 31360
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Hoffmeyer appealed his jury conviction for fourth-degree-felony domestic violence and 18-month prison sentence from the Summit County Court of Common Pleas.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Sufficiency of the evidence is reviewed de novo, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution and asking whether any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Manifest-weight claims require review of the entire record and reversal only when the jury clearly lost its way and created a manifest miscarriage of justice. Ineffective-assistance claims are evaluated under Strickland's deficient-performance and prejudice requirements.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published
PARTIES	Samuel Hoffmeyer v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

criminal procedure

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether sufficient evidence supported the domestic-violence conviction, including proof that L.R. was a family or household member because she and Hoffmeyer cohabited.
2. Whether the domestic-violence conviction was against the manifest weight of the evidence.
3. Whether trial counsel rendered ineffective assistance by failing to present portions of a police body-camera recording and by failing to call Hoffmeyer's parole officer regarding his registered address.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence was legally sufficient to establish that L.R. and Hoffmeyer cohabited as spouses and therefore that L.R. was a family or household member under R.C. 2919.25(F).
2. The domestic-violence conviction was not against the manifest weight of the evidence.
3. Hoffmeyer failed to establish ineffective assistance because counsel's challenged decisions did not fall below an objective standard of reasonable representation.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The relevant inquiry is whether, after viewing the evidence in a light most favorable to the prosecution, any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime proven beyond a reasonable doubt.” (¶ 8)

“weigh the evidence and all reasonable inferences, consider the credibility of witnesses and determine whether, in resolving conflicts in the evidence, the trier of fact clearly lost its way and created such a manifest miscarriage of justice that the conviction must be reversed and a new trial ordered.” (¶ 14)

“To prove ineffective assistance of counsel, Mr. Hoffmeyer must establish both that: (1) his counsel’s performance was deficient, and (2) the deficient performance prejudiced the defense.” (¶ 21)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Hoffmeyer and L.R., his girlfriend, shared an apartment. After Hoffmeyer became angry at a Dairy Queen, he attempted to throw a parfait at an employee, and when L.R. intervened, he grabbed her head and attempted to bash her face into the dashboard. L.R. escaped, sought help, and provided police with information about the incident and the couple's living arrangement. Evidence showed Hoffmeyer had stayed at L.R.'s apartment every night, moved belongings there, shared a key, received mail there, and referred to L.R. as his fiancée.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Hoffmeyer was charged under R.C. 2919.25, pleaded not guilty, and was tried before a jury. The jury found him guilty, and the trial court imposed an 18-month term of imprisonment. The Ninth District Court of Appeals affirmed after rejecting challenges based on sufficiency, manifest weight, and ineffective assistance of counsel.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The court ordered a special mandate directing the Summit County Court of Common Pleas to execute the judgment. No substantive remand was ordered.

CASES CITED

- State v. Shelby, 2022-Ohio-4450, ¶¶ 5-6 (9th Dist.)
- State v. Williams, 79 Ohio St.3d 459 (1997)
- State v. McGlothan, 138 Ohio St.3d 146, 2014-Ohio-85
- State v. Long, 9th Dist. Summit No. 25249, 2011-Ohio-1050, ¶ 6
- Dyke v. Price, 2d Dist. Montgomery No. 18060, 2000 WL 1546555, *3 (Oct. 20, 2000)
- State v. Carswell, 114 Ohio St.3d 210, 2007-Ohio-3723, ¶ 35
- State v. Thompkins, 78 Ohio St.3d 380 (1997)
- State v. Jenks, 61 Ohio St.3d 259 (1991)
- State v. Otten, 33 Ohio App.3d 339, 340 (9th Dist. 1986)
- State v. Croghan, 2019-Ohio-3970, ¶ 26 (9th Dist.)
- State v. Gannon, 2020-Ohio-3075, ¶ 20 (9th Dist.)
- State v. Crowe, 2005-Ohio-4082, ¶ 22 (9th Dist.)
- State v. Gondor, 2006-Ohio-6679, ¶ 62
- Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 687 (1984)
- State v. Bradley, 42 Ohio St.3d 136 (1989)
- State v. Lortz, 2008-Ohio-3108, ¶ 34 (9th Dist.)
- State v. Cepec, 2016-Ohio-8076, ¶ 111
- State v. Leonard, 2004-Ohio-6235, ¶ 146
- State v. Rafferty, 2007-Ohio-3997, ¶ 16 (9th Dist.)
- Elyria v. Bozman, 2002-Ohio-2644, ¶ 17 (9th Dist.)
- State v. McCaleb, 2004-Ohio-5940, ¶ 111 (11th Dist.)