

COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO, SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT, CLARK COUNTY

State v. Seiker

2026-Ohio-1073 · No. 2025-CA-59 · Decided March 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The Ohio Second District Court of Appeals affirmed Angel Seiker’s conviction and indefinite prison sentence for permitting child abuse. The court held that the sentence was not contrary to law because the trial court’s sentencing entry demonstrated consideration of the statutory purposes, principles, and factors under Ohio Revised Code sections 2929.11 and 2929.12.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Ohio, Second Appellate District, Clark County
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael L. Tucker; Huffman; Hanseman
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Second Appellate District, Clark County
DECIDED	March 27, 2026
DOCKET	2025-CA-59
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Seiker appealed her felony conviction and sentence after pleading guilty to permitting child abuse, asserting that her sentence was contrary to law.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Ohio Revised Code § 2953.08(G)(2), an appellate court may increase, reduce, modify, or vacate a felony sentence only if it clearly and convincingly finds that the record does not support specified statutory findings or that the sentence is otherwise contrary to law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion; precedential under applicable Ohio law.
PARTIES	Angel Seiker v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

- sentencing
- standard of review
- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal law
- Criminal procedure
- Felony sentencing
- Appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Seiker's sentence was contrary to law because the trial court allegedly failed to consider the purposes and principles of felony sentencing under Ohio Revised Code § 2929.11 and the sentencing factors under Ohio Revised Code § 2929.12.

HOLDINGS

1. A trial court must consider the purposes and principles of felony sentencing under Ohio Revised Code § 2929.11 and the sentencing factors under § 2929.12, but it is not required to make on-the-record findings or expressly mention those statutes during the sentencing hearing. The record is sufficient when it demonstrates that the court considered the statutes before imposing sentence.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Therefore, “when making a felony sentencing decision, a trial court must consider the R.C. 2929.11 purposes of felony sentencing and the R.C. 2929.12 felony sentencing factors, but there is no requirement for the trial court to make any on-the-record findings regarding R.C. 2929.11 and R.C. 2929.12.”” (¶ 10)

“Based on this record, we find no merit in Seiker’s claim that the trial court failed to consider the appropriate statutory factors in sentencing.” (¶ 13)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The case arose from the death of a four-month-old infant whose autopsy showed blunt-force trauma to the head. The infant had a parietal skull fracture, fractures in both arms and the left femur, and healing bilateral rib fractures. Seiker ultimately pleaded guilty to permitting child abuse, and the trial court imposed an indefinite prison term of 11 to 16.5 years.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Seiker was indicted on two counts of murder, one count of felonious assault, one count of endangering children, and one count of permitting child abuse. Pursuant to a plea agreement, she pleaded guilty to permitting child abuse, a first-degree felony, and the remaining counts were dismissed; the parties did not agree on sentencing. The trial court imposed an indefinite prison term of 11 to 16.5 years, and the Second District affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- State v. Marcum, 2016-Ohio-1002, ¶¶ 7, 9
- State v. Brown, 2017-Ohio-8416, ¶ 74 (2d Dist.)
- State v. King, 2013-Ohio-2021, ¶ 45 (2d Dist.)
- State v. Foster, 2006-Ohio-856, paragraph seven of the syllabus
- State v. Benedict, 2021-Ohio-966, ¶ 8 (2d Dist.)

- State v. Trent, 2021-Ohio-3698, ¶ 15 (2d Dist.)
- State v. Daniels, 2025-Ohio-4876, ¶ 9 (2d Dist.)
- State v. Bowen, 2025-Ohio-1273, ¶ 9 (2d Dist.)
- State v. Walden, 2016-Ohio-47, ¶ 10 (2d Dist.)
- State v. Battle, 2014-Ohio-4502, ¶ 15 (2d Dist.)
- State v. Miller, 2010-Ohio-2138, ¶ 43 (2d Dist.)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

[Cite as State v. Seiker, 2026-Ohio-1073.] IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT CLARK COUNTY STATE OF OHIO:: C.A. No. 2025-CA-59 Appellee:: Trial Court Case No. 24-CR-0724(B) v.: (Criminal Appeal from Common Pleas ANGEL SEIKER: Court) Appellant: FINAL JUDGMENT ENTRY &: OPINION Pursuant to the opinion of this court rendered on March 27, 2026, the judgment of the trial court is affirmed.

Costs to be paid as stated in App.R. 24. Pursuant to Ohio App.R. 30(A), the clerk of the court of appeals shall immediately serve notice of this judgment upon all parties and make a note in the docket of the service. Additionally, pursuant to App.R. 27, the clerk of the court of appeals shall send a certified copy of this judgment, which constitutes a mandate, to the clerk of the trial court and note the service on the appellate docket.

For the court, MICHAEL L. TUCKER, JUDGE HUFFMAN, J., and HANSEMAN, J., concur. OPINION CLARK C.A. No. 2025-CA-59 CHIMA R. EKEH, Attorney for Appellant JOHN M. LINTZ, Attorney for Appellee TUCKER, J. {¶ 1} Defendant-appellant Angel Seiker appeals from her conviction of permitting child abuse.

For the reasons set forth below, we affirm. I. Factual and Procedural History {¶ 2} This case arises from the death of a four-month-old infant. An autopsy revealed the infant’s death was the result of “blunt force trauma to the head.” The record indicated the infant had a parietal skull fracture, bone fractures in both arms, and a fracture to the left femur.

The infant also had bilateral rib fractures that were healing at the time he died. {¶ 3} Following an investigation, Seiker was indicted on two counts of murder, one count of felonious assault, one count of endangering children, and one count of permitting child abuse. Following plea negotiations, Seiker agreed to enter a guilty plea to the charge of permitting child abuse, a first degree felony.

In exchange, the State agreed to dismiss the remaining counts. No agreement was reached regarding sentencing. {¶ 4} A plea hearing was conducted on March 3, 2025, at which time the

trial court accepted Seiker's plea. A sentencing hearing was held a few days later where the trial court sentenced Seiker to an indefinite prison term of 11 to 16.5 years. {¶ 5} Seiker appeals.

II. Sentence {¶ 6} Seiker asserts the following as her sole assignment of error: APPELLANT'S SENTENCE IS CONTRARY TO LAW. 2 {¶ 7} When reviewing felony sentences, we must apply the standard of review set forth in R.C. 2953.08(G)(2). *State v. Marcum*, 2016-Ohio-1002, ¶ 7.

Under this statute, an appellate court may increase, reduce, or modify a sentence, or it may vacate the sentence and remand for resentencing, only if it clearly and convincingly finds either: (1) the record does not support the sentencing court's findings under certain enumerated statutes, or (2) the sentence is otherwise contrary to law. *Id.* at ¶ 9, citing R.C.

2953.08(G)(2). {¶ 8} "A sentence is contrary to law when it does not fall within the statutory range for the offense or if the trial court fails to consider the purposes and principles of felony sentencing set forth in R.C. 2929.11 and the sentencing factors set forth in R.C. 2929.12." (Citation omitted.) *State v. Brown*, 2017-Ohio-8416, ¶ 74 (2d Dist.). {¶ 9} Seiker concedes her sentence was within the permissible statutory range for first-degree felonies.

But she claims that the trial court failed to consider either R.C. 2929.11 or R.C. 2929.12. In support, she notes the court did not refer to either statute during the sentencing hearing. {¶ 10} "The trial court has full discretion to impose any sentence within the authorized statutory range, and the court is not required to make any findings or give its reasons for imposing maximum or more than minimum sentences." *State v. King*, 2013-Ohio-2021, ¶ 45 (2d Dist.), citing *State v. Foster*, 2006-Ohio-856, paragraph seven of the syllabus.

Therefore, "when making a felony sentencing decision, a trial court must consider the R.C. 2929.11 purposes of felony sentencing and the R.C. 2929.12 felony sentencing factors, but there is no requirement for the trial court to make any on-the-record findings regarding R.C. 2929.11 and R.C. 2929.12." *State v. Benedict*, 2021-Ohio-966, ¶ 8 (2d Dist.). "It is enough that the record demonstrates that the trial court considered R.C.

2929.11 and R.C. 2929.12 prior to imposing its sentence." *State v. Trent*, 2021-Ohio-3698, ¶ 15 (2d Dist.). 3 {¶ 11} "This court has often explained that a defendant's sentence is not contrary to law when the trial court expressly stated in its sentencing entry that it had considered R.C. 2929.11 and R.C. 2929.12, even if it neglected to mention these statutes at the disposition." *State v. Daniels*, 2025-Ohio-4876, ¶ 9 (2d Dist.), quoting *State v. Bowen*, 2025- Ohio-1273, ¶ 9 (2d Dist.), citing *State v. Walden*, 2016-Ohio-47, ¶ 10 (2d Dist.); *State v. Battle*, 2014-Ohio-4502, ¶ 15 (2d Dist.); *State v. Miller*, 2010-Ohio-2138, ¶ 43 (2d Dist.). {¶ 12} In its judgment entry, the trial court stated that it "considered the PSI, record, oral statements of counsel, the defendant's statement, and the principles and purposes of sentencing under Ohio Revised Code Section 2929.11 and then balanced the seriousness and recidivism factors under Ohio Revised Code Section 2929.12." {¶

13} Based on this record, we find no merit in Seiker's claim that the trial court failed to consider the appropriate statutory factors in sentencing.

Accordingly, the sole assignment of error is overruled. III. Conclusion {¶ 14} Having overruled Seiker's assignment of error, the judgment of the trial court is affirmed. HUFFMAN, J., and HANSEMAN, J., concur. 4