

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH APPELLATE DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT  
TEXARKANA

Michael Steven Sickler v. the State of Texas

Sickler v. State, No. 06-25-00086-CR (Tex. App.—Texarkana Feb. 19, 2026) (mem. op., not designated for publication) · No. No. 06-25-00086-CR · Decided February 19, 2026

SUMMARY

The Sixth Court of Appeals of Texas at Texarkana affirmed Michael Steven Sickler’s twenty-year prison sentence following his open guilty plea to sexual assault of a child. In an Anders appeal, the court independently reviewed the record, found no reversible error, and granted appointed counsel’s motion to withdraw.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | Court of Appeals for the Sixth Appellate District of Texas at Texarkana                                                                                                             |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Scott E. Stevens, Chief Justice; Charles van Cleef, Justice; Randy Rambin, Justice                                                                                                  |
| JURISDICTION          | Court of Appeals for the Sixth Appellate District of Texas at Texarkana                                                                                                             |
| DECIDED               | February 19, 2026                                                                                                                                                                   |
| DOCKET                | No. 06-25-00086-CR                                                                                                                                                                  |
| DISPOSITION           | affirmed                                                                                                                                                                            |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Sickler appealed his conviction and twenty-year sentence following an open guilty plea to sexual assault of a child. Appellate counsel filed an Anders brief and moved to withdraw. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | In an Anders appeal, the appellate court independently reviews the entire record to determine whether reversible error exists.                                                      |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Nonprecedential memorandum opinion; designated Do Not Publish.                                                                                                                      |
| PARTIES               | Michael Steven Sickler v. The State of Texas                                                                                                                                        |

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure
- right to counsel

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal appellate procedure
- criminal procedure
- appointed counsel

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether independent review of the record in this Anders appeal revealed any reversible error.
2. Whether appellate counsel should be permitted to withdraw after filing an Anders brief.

## HOLDINGS

1. After independently reviewing the entire appellate record, the court determined that no reversible error existed and affirmed the trial court's judgment.
2. The court granted appellate counsel's motion to withdraw because the case presented no reversible error and counsel had complied with Anders requirements.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“We have reviewed the entire appellate record and have independently determined that no reversible error exists.”* (at 2)

*“In the Anders context, once we determine that no reversible error exists, we must affirm the trial court’s judgment.”* (at 2)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Sickler was indicted for sexual assault of a child under Texas Penal Code section 22.011(a)(2). He entered an open guilty plea, and the trial court imposed a twenty-year prison sentence. Appellate counsel reviewed the record, found no genuinely arguable grounds for appeal, and filed an Anders brief and motion to withdraw.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Sickler was indicted in the 124th District Court of Gregg County, Texas, for sexual assault of a child. He entered an open guilty plea, and the trial court sentenced him to twenty years' imprisonment. On appeal, appointed counsel filed an Anders brief asserting that no genuinely arguable issue existed and moved to withdraw. Sickler was given access to the record and opportunities to file a pro se response but filed none. The court independently reviewed the record and affirmed.

## DISPOSITION

affirmed

## CASES CITED

- Anders v. California, 386 U.S. 738, 743–44 (1967)
- In re Schulman, 252 S.W.3d 403, 406 (Tex. Crim. App. 2008) (orig. proceeding)
- Stafford v. State, 813 S.W.2d 503, 509–10 (Tex. Crim. App. 1991)
- High v. State, 573 S.W.2d 807, 812–13 (Tex. Crim. App. [Panel Op.] 1978)
- Bledsoe v. State, 178 S.W.3d 824, 826–27 (Tex. Crim. App. 2005)

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