

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Aqontise Glenn v. The State

Glenn · No. S26A0195 · Decided June 16, 2026

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Georgia affirmed Aqontise Glenn’s convictions for malice murder and related offenses arising from a drive-by shooting. The court held that the circumstantial evidence was constitutionally and statutorily sufficient and that the trial court properly excluded multiple-hearsay testimony concerning an alleged alternative suspect.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Georgia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Warren, Presiding Justice
JURISDICTION	Georgia
DECIDED	June 16, 2026
DOCKET	S26A0195
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from a judgment of conviction and sentence entered by the Superior Court of DeKalb County; the appeal was transferred from the Georgia Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Georgia.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Constitutional sufficiency of the evidence is reviewed by viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the verdict and asking whether any rational juror could have found the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Whether a circumstantial-evidence hypothesis is reasonable is for the jury to decide. Evidentiary rulings are reviewed for abuse of discretion. An unpreserved Confrontation Clause claim is reviewed for plain error.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Aqontise Glenn v. The State

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- evidence
- hearsay
- appellate procedure
- sixth amendment

PRACTICE AREAS

Criminal law

Criminal procedure

Evidence

Appellate procedure

Constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the evidence was constitutionally sufficient to support Glenn's convictions for malice murder, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, and fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer.
2. Whether the circumstantial evidence excluded every other reasonable hypothesis under OCGA § 24-14-6.
3. Whether the trial court abused its discretion by excluding hearsay testimony concerning the contents of an investigator's report and thereby limiting cross-examination of the lead investigator.
4. Whether exclusion of the testimony violated Glenn's rights under the Sixth Amendment's Confrontation Clause or his right to present a complete defense.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence, viewed in the light most favorable to the verdicts, was constitutionally sufficient for a rational juror to find Glenn guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of malice murder, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, and fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer.
2. The evidence was sufficient under OCGA § 24-14-6 because the jury was authorized to reject as unreasonable the hypotheses that different individuals committed the shooting or that someone other than Glenn drove the Nissan Versa during the shooting.
3. The trial court did not abuse its discretion by excluding testimony about the substance of the investigator's report because the testimony involved multiple layers of out-of-court statements offered to prove the truth of the asserted confession and did not fall within an asserted hearsay exception.
4. Glenn did not establish plain error from the exclusion of the hearsay testimony because applying Georgia's hearsay rule did not clearly and obviously violate the Sixth Amendment or his constitutional right to present a complete defense.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"This evidence, albeit circumstantial, was sufficient as a matter of constitutional due process." (at 5)

"It follows that absent a statutory exception, testimony from an investigating officer as to what others told him during the course of his investigation may be excluded as inadmissible hearsay if such testimony is offered to prove the truth of the matter asserted." (at 8)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Surveillance footage showed a black Nissan Versa entering an apartment complex shortly before the shooting of Christopher Copeland and leaving immediately afterward. Glenn was later found driving the same vehicle, fled from police, abandoned the vehicle, and was identified by his aunt as the person fleeing from it; evidence also connected Glenn's cell phone and fingerprints to the vehicle and crime scene. Police recovered ammunition near

the abandoned vehicle, and three shell casings recovered at the scene were fired from the same gun. At trial, the court excluded portions of an investigator's report recounting multiple layers of hearsay about another person allegedly confessing to a killing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A DeKalb County grand jury indicted Glenn for malice murder and related offenses. Following a jury trial, Glenn was convicted on all counts and sentenced to life imprisonment plus consecutive terms for firearm possession during the commission of a felony and fleeing or attempting to elude. The trial court denied Glenn's amended motion for new trial, and the Supreme Court of Georgia affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Malcolm v. State*, 263 Ga. 369, 372 (1993)
- *Jackson v. Virginia*, 443 US 307, 319 (1979)
- *Moulder v. State*, 317 Ga. 43, 47 (2023)
- *McClain v. State*, 303 Ga. 6, 9 (2018)
- *Moss v. State*, 323 Ga. 143, 146 (2025)
- *Montgomery v. State*, 323 Ga. 188, 190-91 (2025)
- *Wilson v. State*, 319 Ga. 550, 553 (2024)
- *Anglin v. State*, 302 Ga. 333, 335, 340 (2017)
- *Jackson v. State*, 301 Ga. 866, 870 (2017)
- *Upshaw v. State*, 323 Ga. 257, 272 (2026)
- *Pugh v. State*, 318 Ga. 706, 717 (2024)
- *Crane v. Kentucky*, 476 US 683, 690 (1986)
- *United States v. Scheffer*, 523 US 303, 308 (1998)
- *Nevada v. Jackson*, 569 US 505, 509 (2013)
- *Benson v. State*, ___ Ga. ___ (2026), S26A0425, slip op. at 20 (Ga. May 19, 2026)