

COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

Abbey Jaquith v. Bradley Jaquith

No. 25-0588 · No. No. 25-0588 · Decided February 11, 2026

SUMMARY

The Iowa Court of Appeals affirmed a final domestic abuse protective order against Bradley Jaquith under Iowa Code chapter 236. The court deferred to the district court’s credibility determinations and concluded that the evidence supported finding domestic abuse, including grabbing, shoving, and spitting. The court awarded Abbey Jaquith \$4,800 in appellate attorney fees and taxed costs to Bradley.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Iowa
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Sandy, J.; Ahlers, P.J.; Chicchelly, J.
JURISDICTION	Iowa Court of Appeals
DECIDED	February 11, 2026
DOCKET	No. 25-0588
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Bradley Jaquith appealed the Iowa District Court for Black Hawk County's final domestic-abuse protective order, which found that he committed domestic abuse against Abbey Jaquith.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Because civil domestic-abuse cases are tried in equity, review is de novo. The appellate court is not bound by the district court's factual findings or credibility determinations but gives deference to them because the district court had the firsthand opportunity to hear the evidence and view the witnesses.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Bradley Jaquith v. Abbey Jaquith

TOPICS

- domestic violence
- family law procedure
- appellate procedure
- standard of review
- evidence

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether substantial evidence and the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard supported the district court's finding that Bradley committed domestic abuse under Iowa Code chapter 236.
2. Whether the district court's credibility-based determination should be upheld on de novo review.
3. Whether Abbey should receive appellate attorney fees.

HOLDINGS

1. The evidence, including Abbey's testimony concerning Bradley's grabbing, shoving, spitting, and other offensive conduct, supported the district court's finding by a preponderance of the evidence that Bradley committed domestic abuse.
2. The district court's credibility-based finding that Bradley committed domestic abuse was entitled to deference and was affirmed after de novo review.
3. Abbey was awarded \$4,800 in appellate attorney fees, and the costs of the appeal were taxed to Bradley.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“And observation of lasting physical injuries is not necessary for a finding of assault.” (4)

“We have conducted a careful de novo review and conclude that disposition is dependent on a determination of the parties’ credibility as witnesses.” (4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bradley and Abbey Jaquith were married and had two children while also undergoing dissolution-of-marriage proceedings. Abbey alleged that Bradley had shoved her, attempted to pull her down stairs, spit in her face, yelled and threatened her, and raised his arm as if to punch her while she held their child. After an evidentiary hearing at which both parties testified, the district court found that Bradley committed domestic abuse and entered a final protective order.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Abbey petitioned for relief from domestic abuse under Iowa Code chapter 236 after alleging multiple incidents of physical aggression, threats, and offensive conduct. The district court entered a temporary protective order, held an evidentiary hearing, and then entered a final protective order. Bradley appealed, challenging the sufficiency of the evidence and Abbey's credibility; the Court of Appeals affirmed and awarded Abbey \$4,800 in appellate attorney fees.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Wilker v. Wilker, 630 N.W.2d 590, 594 (Iowa 2001)
- In re Marriage of Will, 489 N.W.2d 394, 397 (Iowa 1992)
- In re Marriage of McDermott, 827 N.W.2d 671, 687 (Iowa 2013)

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