

OHIO COURT OF APPEALS, NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

State v. Rose

2026-Ohio-340 · No. 31267 · Decided February 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The Ninth District Court of Appeals of Ohio affirmed Raven Nichole Rose’s conviction for felonious assault. The court rejected her manifest-weight challenge, concluding that the jury did not clearly lose its way in rejecting her self-defense claim. The opinion discusses the elements of self-defense and the respective burdens of production and persuasion.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | Ohio Court of Appeals, Ninth Judicial District                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Jennifer Hensal; Carr, J.; Flagg Lanzinger, P.J.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| JURISDICTION          | Ohio Court of Appeals, Ninth Judicial District                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| DECIDED               | February 4, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| DOCKET                | 31267                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| DISPOSITION           | affirmed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Rose appealed her jury conviction for felonious assault from the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, arguing that the conviction was against the manifest weight of the evidence because she acted in self-defense.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | On a manifest-weight challenge, the appellate court reviews the entire record, weighs the evidence and reasonable inferences, considers witness credibility, and determines whether the trier of fact clearly lost its way and created a manifest miscarriage of justice. Reversal is reserved for the exceptional case in which the evidence weighs heavily against the conviction. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Published Ohio Court of Appeals opinion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| PARTIES               | Raven Nichole Rose v. State of Ohio                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

TOPICS

- self defense
- evidence
- criminal procedure
- standard of review
- appellate procedure

## PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

criminal procedure

appellate practice

evidence

self-defense

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Rose's felonious-assault conviction was against the manifest weight of the evidence because the jury rejected her claim of self-defense.

## HOLDINGS

1. A conviction may be reversed on manifest-weight grounds only when, after reviewing the entire record and weighing the evidence and witness credibility, the appellate court concludes that the trier of fact clearly lost its way and created a manifest miscarriage of justice; reversal is reserved for the exceptional case in which the evidence weighs heavily against the conviction.
2. When a defendant produces legally sufficient evidence of self-defense, the State bears the burden of persuasion to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant did not use force in self-defense, and the State's failure to carry that burden is subject to manifest-weight review on appeal.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“When considering a challenge to the manifest weight of the evidence, this Court is required to consider the entire record, “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.”” (¶ 6)*

*“To carry its burden of persuasion, the State need only disprove one of the foregoing elements beyond a reasonable doubt.” (¶ 8)*

*“The jury was “free to believe all, part, or none of the testimony of each witness.”” (¶ 10)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

An altercation began after a dispute at a bar involving S.V.S.'s friend, the father of her child, and Rose. According to S.V.S., Rose followed her toward another bar, approached her on a ramp, and punched her after S.V.S. declined to fight. Rose testified that S.V.S. attacked her first and that she used only the force necessary to defend herself. The jury credited the State's account and found Rose guilty of felonious assault.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A Summit County grand jury indicted Rose on one count of felonious assault. A jury found her guilty, and the trial court sentenced her to three years of community control. The Ohio Court of Appeals, Ninth Judicial District, overruled her manifest-weight assignment of error and affirmed the judgment.

## DISPOSITION

affirmed

## CASES CITED

- State v. Otten, 33 Ohio App.3d 339, 340 (9th Dist. 1986)
- State v. Croghan, 2019-Ohio-3970, ¶ 26 (9th Dist.)
- State v. Messenger, 2022-Ohio-4562, ¶¶ 14, 24-25, 27
- State v. Brooks, 2022-Ohio-2478, ¶ 6
- State v. Barnes, 94 Ohio St.3d 21, 24 (2002)
- State v. Fleckenstein, 2023-Ohio-4347, ¶ 24 (9th Dist.)
- Prince v. Jordan, 2004-Ohio-7184, ¶ 35 (9th Dist.)
- State v. Jackson, 86 Ohio App.3d 29, 33 (4th Dist. 1993)
- State v. Cook, 2003-Ohio-727, ¶ 30
- Giurbino v. Giurbino, 89 Ohio App.3d 646, 659 (8th Dist. 1993)
- State v. Peasley, 2010-Ohio-4333, ¶ 18 (9th Dist.)

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