

State Of Washington, Respondent V. Ivan Ahquin, Appellant 2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

DIVISION II

STATE OF WASHINGTON, No. 51658-6-II

Respondent,

v.

IVAN LEE AHQUIN, UNPUBLISHED OPINION

Appellant.

LEE, A.C.J. Ivan L. Ahquin appeals his convictions for second degree rape, second degree assault with sexual motivation, first degree criminal trespass, unlawful imprisonment with sexual motivation, violation of a domestic violence court order, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). Ahquin argues that (1) the trial court erred in admitting evidence of prior bad acts under ER 404(b), (2) his rape and assault convictions should have been treated as same criminal conduct when calculating his offender score, and (3) certain legal financial obligations (LFOs) that are inconsistent with the 2018 legislative amendments should be stricken from his judgement and sentence. In a Statement of Additional Grounds (SAG) 1, Ahquin claims that (1) the tria ineffective assistance of counsel, (3) cumulative error requires reversal, (4) his sentence was

clearly excessive, and (5) the trial court erred in calculating his offender score. We affirm

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

1 RAP 10.10. Filed Washington State Court of Appeals Division Two

March 11, 2020 we remand for the trial court to strike the criminal filing fee and interest

FACTS

A. INCIDENT

In 2016, Ahquin and J.G.-E. 2 were involved in a dating relationship. On January 14, 2017,

Ahquin broke into J.G.- with a curling iron. Afterward, J.G.-E. pretended to take her dog on a walk, but instead contacted

her neighbor, who then called 911.

Ahquin was arrested inside of J.G.- The State charged Ahquin with first degree rape, second degree assault with sexual motivation,

first degree burglary with sexual motivation, unlawful imprisonment with sexual motivation,

felony domestic violence court order violation, felony harassment, and unlawful possession of a

controlled substance. 3

B. PRE-TRIAL MOTIONS

[J.G.--E. was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and major

2

3 All of the charges, except the unlawful possession of a controlled substance charge, included a domestic violence allegation. The jury returned special verdicts finding none of the charges Ahquin was found guilty of were acts of domestic violence. Verbatim Report of Proceedings

(VRP) at 531.

Although Ahquin conceded that there was no evidence that J.G.-E. was delusional or

psychotic when the incident occurred on January 14, 2017, Ahquin argued that the evidence was

relevant to show consent because J.G.- - 4 VRP at 536, 553, 534

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

The State also filed a pretrial motion, asking the trial court to admit evidence of prior acts of domestic violence Ahquin committed against J.G.-E. in the months leading up to the January 14, 2017 incident. Specifically, the State sought to introduce testimony regarding an October 14, 2016 incident in which J.G.-E. reported that Ahquin had strangled her for approximately five seconds and forced her to put her mouth on his penis. The State also asked the trial court to admit evidence regarding a December 30, 2016 incident in which Ahquin broke into her apartment, pinned her down, and covered her mouth. 4

The trial court found that evidence related to the October 14 incident wa intent and motive on January 14, 2017 . . . that the evidence was relevant to prove that J.G.- be carried out on January 14, 2017. The court concluded that the probative value of the evidence

4 The State also moved to allow evidence of domestic violence incidents between Ahquin and J.G.-E. that occurred on September 11, 2016, October 21, 2016, December 21, 2016, December 23, 2016, and January 13, 2017. The trial court admitted evidence regarding the January 13, 2017 incident. Ahquin does not challenge the admission of evidence related to the January 13, 2017 domestic violence incident on appeal. substantially outweighed the risk of unfair prejudice and was admissible with a limiting instruction

Certain evidence has been admitted in this case for only a limited purpose. This evidence consists of the October 14th, 2016 alleged incident. This evidence may be considered by you only to the extent you find it relevant to the following issues:

ge of unlawful imprisonment,

You may not consider the evidence for any other purpose. The evidence about and cannot be considered, to prove the character of the defendant in order to show that he acted in conformity therewith. This evidence cannot be considered by you to prove propensity, proclivity, predisposition or inclination to commit rape or assault or unlawful imprisonment or harassment or burglary or violation of a no contact order.

Any discussion of the evidence during your deliberations must be consistent with this limitation.

CP at 137.

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

The trial court also ruled that the evidence that Ahquin broke into J.G.- December 30 was probative to his first degree burglary charge and his motive and intent to

unlawfully restrain J.G.-E. and to contact J.G.-E. despite the no contact order prohibiting him from

doing so. The court found that this evidence was probative as to J.G.-

January 14. The court further found that the probative value of this evidence outweighed the risk

of unfair prejudic instruction stated,

Certain evidence has been admitted in this case for only a limited purpose. This evidence consists of the December 30, 2016 alleged incident. This evidence may be considered by you only to the extent you find it relevant to the following issues:

degree, burglary in the first degree, unlawful imprisonment and violation of a no contact order, and;

You may not consider the evidence for any other purpose. The evidence and cannot be considered, to prove the character of the defendant in order to show

that he acted in conformity therewith. This evidence cannot be considered by you to prove propensity, proclivity, predisposition or inclination to commit rape or assault or burglary or unlawful imprisonment or harassment or violation of a no contact order.

Any discussion of the evidence during your deliberations must be consistent with this limitation.

CP at 138.

C. TRIAL

At trial, J.G.-E. testified that she began dating Ahquin in July 2016. On October 14, 2016,

Ahquin strangled J.G.-E., violently shook her neck, and gave her a black eye. When her voice

escalated, Ahquin grabbed her neck and would squeeze while telling her to

730. Ahquin also strangled her, forced intimacy, and held her down. 6 VRP at 730-31.

Ahquin was served with a no-contact order on December 23, 2016, which prohibited him

from contacting J.G.-E. On December 30, 2016, when she returned to her apartment, she found

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

Ahquin inside. . . . started in on [J.G.-E.] physically by pushing [her] into

the chair and grabbing [her]

In the early morning hours of January 14, 2017, J.G.-E. awoke and saw Ahquin climbing

though her apartment window. J.G.-E. raised her voice, and Ahquin grabbed her throat and restricted her breathing. Ahquin then threw her onto her bed and forcefully took her clothes off.

At one point, J.G.-E. said that she needed to use the restroom. Ahquin walked her to the bathroom

and squeezed her throat while she sat on the toilet. Ahquin would not let J.G.-E. wipe herself;

instead, Ahquin wiped J.G.-E. while keeping one hand around her neck.

When the two returned to the bedroom, a glass fell from the bedpost. Ahquin forced J.G.-

E. to clean up the broken glass. As J.G.-E. cleaned up the broken glass, her legs started to get

weak from being strangled and losing her strength from fighting and trying to get the defendant

off her. Ahquin pulled J.G.- picked up J.G.-E., threw her on the bed, and told her to stay there before he left the room.

Ahquin returned from the bathroom with a curling iron and penetrated her both vaginally

and anally with the curling iron. Ahquin continued to strangle J.G.- 6 VRP at 784. When Ahquin was finished penetrating J.G.-E.

with the curling iron, he vaginally penetrated her with his penis.

Afterward, J.G.-E. asked to take her dog outside. Ahquin permitted her to leave but told

her she had to come back. Once outside, J.G.-E. asked her neighbor to call the police and then

returned to the apartment.

Law enforcement officers and arrested Ahquin inside

J.G.- The officers conducted a search incident to arrest and found a folding knife

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

-E. consented to a sexual assault examination. At trial, the

sexual assault nurse examiner testified that she observed bruising to J.G.- left

forearm, right upper arm, and right forearm. She also documented scratches to J.G.- and right upper thigh and tenderness to J.G.- The nurse further documented a two-centimeter scratch under J.G.- the nurse noted a one-centimeter tear and to J.G.- able to cause a -76. The nurse also documented

three small lacerations to J.G.-

Ahquin testified as follows: On January 13, J.G.-E. picked him up at his trailer and they

went to her apartment. He had consensual sex with J.G.-E., and then they began to argue. After

J.G.-E. calmed down, he Later, he received a text from J.G.-E.

threatening to commit suicide. He returned to J.G.- an

outside wall to the window. He knocked on the window, and J.G.-E. let him in.

Once inside, he again had consensual sex with J.G.-E and they used the curling iron as part of the sex and he believed it was a sex toy. They engaged in various sex acts and they were all consensual. At one point, he asked J.G.-E. if he could use the curling iron anally and when she said no he stopped. Afterward, J.G.-E. took her dog out and then took out a box of garbage. A few minutes later, the police arrived and he was arrested. He was aware that he was violating the no contact order on multiple occasions.

The jury found Ahquin guilty of the lesser included charge of second degree rape, second degree assault with sexual motivation, the lesser included charge of first degree criminal trespass, unlawful imprisonment with sexual motivation, violation of a no contact order, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance. At sentencing, Ahquin argued that his convictions for rape and assault encompassed same

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

criminal conduct. The trial court stated that it was uncertain whether the jury relied on

strangulation as the forcible compulsion used to commit the rape. Thus, the trial court denied the

(March 16, 2018) at 18.

Based sentence of 316 months to life. The trial court also found that Ahquin was indigent for the purposes

of nonmandatory legal financial obligations and imposed only the \$500 crime victim assessment

that imposed interest on all financial obligations in the judgment and sentence.

Ahquin appeals.

ANALYSIS

A. ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE ER 404(b)

Ahquin argues that the trial court erred in admitting prior bad acts evidence because it was

not relevant, was inadmissible propensity evidence, and not admitted for a proper purpose under

ER 404(b). Here, the trial court only improperly admitted evidence of prior acts for the purpose

of proving the violation of the no contact order charge, and . 1. Legal Principles

We review

ruling admitting evidence for abuse of discretion. State v. Arredondo, 188 Wn.2d 244, 256, 394

P.3d 348 (2017).

Evidence of other crimes, wrongs, or acts is not admissible to prove the character of a person in order to show action in conformity therewith. It may, however, be admissible for other purposes, such as proof of motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or accident.

ER 404(b). To determine if evidence of other crimes or acts is admissible under ER 404(b), the trial court must undertake the following analysis on the record: (1) find that the misconduct

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

occurred by a preponderance of the evidence; (2) identify the purpose for which the evidence is sought to be introduced; (3) determine whether the evidence is relevant to prove an element of the charged offense; and (4) weigh the probative value against the prejudicial effect. Arredondo, 188 Wn.2d at 256-57. rtunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or State v. Powell, 126 Wn.2d 244, 258, 893 P.2d 615 (1995). However, ged offenses are State v. Lough, 125 Wn.2d 847, 863, 889 P.2d 487 (1995). Powell, 126 Wn.2d at 259. Evidence of previous quarrels, ill-feelings, and prior threats may all be admissible to prove motive, if proving motive is relevant to the case at issue. Id. at 260. Evidence of prior assaults or a hostile relationship between the defendant and victim may be admissible to show motive. State v. Baker, 162 Wn. App. 468, 473-74, 259 P.3d 270, review denied, 173 Wn.2d 1004 (2011).

Intent is distinct from motive and relates to the state of mind with which the act is done or omitted. Powell

prove intent when intent is at issue or when proof of the doing of the charged act does not itself

Id. at 262.

Evidence of prior bad acts is also relevant and admissible for the purpose of establishing a

ssue in the case. State v. Magers, 164 Wn.2d

174, 182, 189 P.3d 126 (2008). For charges of harassment, prior acts of violence or threats between

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

the defendant and the victim are relevant for proving the victim had a reasonable fear of harm. Id.

2. October 14, 2016 Incident

The trial court admitted the evidence regarding the October 14, 2016 incident, in which

Ahquin had strangled J.G.-E. for approximately five seconds and forced her to put her mouth on

his penis, finding that it was relevant to Ahquin

- to J.G.- by admitting the evidence for all three of these purposes.
- a. Unlawful imprisonment

Ahquin argues that prior bad acts were not relevant to the charge of unlawful imprisonment

because motive and intent are not elements of unlawful imprisonment. But motive and intent do not need to be necessary elements of the crime in order to be relevant to proving the charge. See

Powell, 126 Wn.2d at 260-62.

Here, the evidence of the prior assault establishes there was a hostile, controlling

relationship between Ahquin and J.G.-E. Because Ahquin claimed that he did not prevent J.G.-E.

from leaving the apartment and claimed that all the acts that occurred during the January 14

incident were consensual, the prior assault where Ahquin strangled J.G.-E., held her down, and

forced her to put her mouth on his penis

as to why Ahquin would have confined J.G.-E. Therefore, the evidence had substantial probative value to proving the unlawful imprisonment charge. Accordingly, the trial court did not abuse its discretion in admitting the evidence of the October 14 incident.

b. Rape

The trial court also did not abuse its discretion by finding that the October 14 incident was

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

he charge of rape. 5 Again, Ahquin argues that

the prior incident was irrelevant because the State did not need to prove state of mind or motive to

establish the charge of rape. However, because Ahquin asserted that the acts that occurred on

January 14 were consensual, evidence that tends to prove his state of mind or motivation would be

relevant and have substantial probative value.

Ahquin contends that the prior incident does not show a motivation or inducement to

commit additional acts of violence, assault or rape. But motive does not need to be as simple as

5 Ahquin also argues that the prior incidents were not relevant to proving intent regarding rape. However, the trial court did not admit evidence of either incident for the purpose of proving the prior act is the reason the charged act occurred. Rather, motive can be more complex, such as

a relationship in w See Baker, 162 Wn. App. at 474 (evidence of prior assaults on same victim months apart

admissible to show motive); Powell, 126 Wn.2d at 259-60 (motive includes any force, reason, or

impulse that moves a person to act). Thus, the trial court did not abuse its discretion by admitting

c. Harassment

Finally, the trial court did not abuse its discretion by finding that the October 14 incident

was relevant to prove J.G.- - to

-E. was

placed in reasonable fear, prior incidents between Ahquin and J.G.-E. that made J.G.- reasonably fearful of Ahquin on January 14 would be relevant and have substantial probative

value.

3. December 30 Incident

The trial court admitted the evidence of the December 30 incident, in which Ahquin

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

strangled J.G.-E. during an argument,

the charges of second degree assault, first degree burglary, unlawful imprisonment, and violation of the no contact order. Ahquin argues that the trial court erred because motive and intent was unnecessary to prove any of these charges.

Here, Ahquin testified that J.G.-E. gave him permission to enter the apartment through the window. And Ahquin asserted that all the events on January 14 were consensual. Therefore, the trial court did not abuse its discretion by admitting the evidence of the December 30 incident as

relevant burglary, or unlawful imprisonment.

However, the trial court abused its discretion by admitting the evidence of the December

30 incident with regard to the violation of the no contact order charge. Ahquin knew about the no

contact order and that he entered J.G.-

prohibited him from being there. Therefore, intent and motive were not relevant to proving the

charge of the violation of the no contact order in this case and had little probative value to proving the violation of no contact order charge.

The trial court also admitted the evidence of the December 30 incident with regard to J.G.-

-E. was strangled

and assaulted during the December 30 incident. Therefore, the prior assault would be relevant to

proving that J.G.-

4. Harmless Error

Ahquin further argues the trial court error in bad acts was not harmless. We disagree and hold that the improper admission of the December 30

incident to prove the violation of the no contact order was harmless.

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

Because the evidentiary error is not constitutional, we apply the nonconstitutional harmless error standard. State v. Gunderson, 181 Wn.2d Id. (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting State v. Gresham, 173 Wn.2d 405, 433, 269 P.3d 207 (2012)). Here,

violation of a no contact order. In this case, the evidence regarding both incidents would have been otherwise admissible and it was harmless as to the violation of the no contact order charge. And Ahquin admitted that he was aware of the no contact order and was aware that he was violating it. Therefore, there is no reasonable probability that the outcome would have been different if the trial court had not admitted the evidence of the December 30 incident for the purpose of the charge of violating the no contact order.

B. AME CRIMINAL CONDUCT

Ahquin argues that the trial court erred when it declined to treat his convictions for second degree rape and second degree assault as one crime because they encompassed the same criminal conduct. We disagree.

We review the trial State v. Bergstrom,

162 Wn.2d 87, 92, 169 P.3d 816 (2007 criminal history and other current offenses. RCW 9.94A.589(1)(a). The trial court presumes that

two or more current offenses are counted separately. RCW 9.94A.589(1)(a). However, if the trial

9.94A.589(1)(a). All three elements must be met for the crimes to constitute the same criminal

conduct. State v. Lessley, 118 Wn.2d 773, 778, 827 P.2d 996 (1992). The defendant bears the burden of proving same criminal conduct. State v. Aldana Garciano, 176 Wn.2d 531, 539, 295

P.3d 219 (2013). purposes of calculating an offender score will not be reversed absent an abuse of discretion or

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

misapplication of the law. State v. Haddock, 141 Wn.2d 103, 110, 3 P.3d 733 (2000). Here, the trial court determined that Ahquin failed to meet his burden to prove that the second degree rape and second degree assault convictions were the same criminal conduct because based on the statutory elements of the crimes, the two offenses had different intents. The trial court may rely on the statutory elements of the convicted offenses to determine whether the defendant had the same criminal intent. State v. Chenoweth, 185 Wn.2d 218, 221-23, 370 P.3d 6 (2016). Therefore, the trial court did not abuse its discretion by determining that Ahquin failed to meet his burden to prove his second degree rape and second degree assault convictions were the score.

offenses were not the same criminal

conduct.

C. LFOs

Ahquin also argues that the trial court erred by imposing the \$200 criminal filing fee. The State concedes that both the criminal filing fee and the interest provision are improper under the 2018 legislative amendments to the LFO statutes and State v. Ramirez, 191 Wn.2d 732, 426 P.3d 714 (2018). We the

criminal filing fee and the interest accrual provision on nonrestitution LFOs judgment and sentence. D. STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL GROUNDS

Ahquin raises five additional issues in his SAG: (1) the trial court denied his right to present a defense when it suppressed J.G.- fective assistance of counsel, (3) the cumulative error doctrine requires reversal, (4) his sentence was clearly

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

excessive, and (5) a challenge to his offender score. We hold that SAG claims fail.

1. Suppression and Exclusion of J.G.- l Health Record

Ahquin claims that the trial court abused its discretion when it suppressed and excluded

J.G.- . use of discretion. SAG at 7. We disagree.

is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence ER 401. Irrelevant evidence is inadmissible. ER 402.

When determining whether evidence of prior mental health is relevant and admissible the

suffered from the condition at the time of the events to which the witness will testify; [and] 3) the

Arredondo, 188 Wn.2d at 267 (alteration in

original) (quoting United States v. Love, 329 F.3d 981, 984 (8th Cir. 2003)). When the proposed

it is not relevant. Id. at 267-69. We review the trial court's decision to exclude evidence for an

abuse of discretion. State v. Lord, 161 Wn.2d 276, 294, 165 P.3d 1251 (2007).

Here, the trial court determined that J.G.-

to J.G.- incident in question. Adquin conceded that J.G.-E was not suffering from delusions or psychosis at the time of the incident in question.

Therefore, J.G.- -

examination. Arredondo, 188 Wn.2d at 267-68. Thus, the trial court did not abuse its discretion in determining that J.G.- 6 fails.

2. Ineffective Assistance of Counsel

Ahquin claims that he received ineffective assistance of counsel because his counsel failed to move to sever his rape charge from the other charged offenses. He contends that he suffered

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

prejudice as a result and that no legitimate trial strategy could account for this failure. We decline because the record is insufficient for review.

The Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and article I, section 22 of the Washington

Constitution guarantee a defendant the right to effective assistance of counsel. State v. Grier, 171

Wn.2d 17, 32, 246 P.3d 1260 (2011), cert. denied, 574 U.S. 860 (2014). An ineffective assistance

of counsel claim is a mixed question of fact and law that this court reviews de novo. State v.

Sutherby, 165 Wn.2d 870, 883, 204 P.3d 916 (2009). To prevail in an ineffective assistance of

counse

deficient performance resulted in prejudice to the defense. Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S.

668, 687, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 80 L. Ed. 2d 674 (1984). If the defendant fails either part of this two-

Grier, 171 Wn.2d at 32-33.

6 Ahquin further argues that defense. Because we hold that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in excluding irrelevant

evidence, we do not address this claim. Id. at 33. We engage State

v. Kyllo, 166 Wn.2d 856, 862, 215 P.3d 177 (2009). A defendant may overcome this presumption

Grier, 171 Wn.2d at 33 (quoting State v. Reichenbach, 153 Wn.2d 126, 130, 10 P.3d. 80 (2004)).

T for the decision were in order to evaluate whether c State v.

Linville, 191 Wn.2d 513, 525-

action are outside the record on appeal, the defendant must bring a separate collateral challenge. Id.

Here, there is nothing in the record to show why decided to not

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

move to sever the rape charge from the other charges. See id. Therefore, we cannot evaluate

we cannot evaluate the

insufficient to review the claim of ineffective assistance of counsel and he must bring a collateral

challenge. See id.

3. Cumulative Error Doctrine

Ahquin claims that he is entitled to a new trial because the issues presented on appeal by

We

disagree.

e entitled to a new trial when

State v. Emery, 174 Wn.2d 741, 766, 278 P.3d 653 (2012). Here, there was only one error the admission of the December 30

incident as relevant to the violation of the no contact order. The cumulative error doctrine only

applies when there is more than one error. Therefore, the cumulative error doctrine does not apply

here.

4.

Ahquin claims that his sentence was clearly excessive. He asks the court to consider the

SAG at 10. However, because Ahquin received a

standard range sentence, he cannot appeal it.

Here, Ahquin received a standard range sentence. Generally, a standard range sentence

cannot be appealed. RCW 9.94A.585(1). However, a defendant may appeal the procedure by

which the standard range sentence is imposed exceptional, mitigated sentence. See , 183 Wn.2d 680, 697, 358 P.3d 359 (2015).

2020 | Cited 0 times | Court of Appeals of Washington | March 11, 2020

Because Ahquin received a standard range sentence and his assertion that the sentence is clearly excessive is unrelated to the procedure by which the standard range sentence was imposed, he cannot appeal his sentence.

5. Offender Score

appellate counsel s as

See

additional grounds CONCLUSION

We hold that the trial court only improperly admitted evidence of prior acts for the purpose

of proving the charge of violation of the no contact order, but the error was harmless. We also

fee and interest provision. We find no but we remand for the trial court to strike the criminal filing fee and interest provision from

A majority of the panel having determined that this opinion will not be printed in the

Washington Appellate Reports, but will be filed for public record in accordance with RCW 2.06.040,

it is so ordered.

Lee, A.C.J. We concur:

Worswick, J.

Cruser, J.