

STATE OF LOUISIANA
COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
430 Fannin Street
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 227-3700

No. 56,671-KW

STATE OF LOUISIANA

VERSUS

SHAKAMBRIA P. TAYLOR

FILED: 08/13/25

RECEIVED: E-FILED 08/12/25

On application of State of Louisiana for SUPERVISORY WRIT in
No. 22-CR-3915 on the docket of the Fourth Judicial District, Parish of
OUACHITA, Judge Larry Donell Jefferson.

Robert Stephen Tew
Ricky Dewayne Smith

Counsel for:
State of Louisiana

MANNING LAW FIRM
Bobby Ray Manning

Counsel for:
Shakambria P. Taylor

Before PITMAN, STONE, and MARCOTTE, JJ.

WRIT GRANTED AND MADE PEREMPTORY.

Applicant State of Louisiana seeks expedited review of the trial court's August 6, 2025 ruling suppressing defendant's custodial statements on grounds that they were not free and voluntary due to the defendant's emotional distress.

The question of voluntariness of a confession, including a determination of the defendant's psychological state of mind, will be answered from the facts and circumstances of each case. *Brown v. Illinois*, 422 U.S. 590, 95 S. Ct. 2254, 45 L. Ed. 2d 416 (1975). Emotional distress is not grounds for rendering a confession inadmissible unless it is so severe that the party confessing is unable to voluntarily do so. *State v. Beck*, 445 So. 2d 470 (La. App. 2 Cir. 1984), *writ denied*, 446 So. 2d 315 (La. 1984). *See State v. Williams*, 383 So. 2d 369 (La. 1980). A trial court's finding as to the free and voluntary nature of a statement carries great weight and will not be disturbed unless not supported by the evidence. *State v. Benoit*, 440 So. 2d 129 (La. 1983); *State v. English*, 582 So. 2d 1358 (La. App. 2 Cir. 1991), *writ denied*, 584 So. 2d 1172 (La. 1991); *State v. Brister*, 19-507 (La. App. 3 Cir. 3/20/20), 297 So. 3d 992. Likewise, the trial court is afforded great discretion in ruling on a motion to suppress, and its ruling will not be disturbed

absent an abuse of that discretion. *State v. Lee*, 05-2098 (La. 1/16/08), 976 So. 2d 109; *State v. Boswell*, 56,200 (La. App. 2 Cir. 4/9/25), 409 So. 3d 491.

In this matter, while it is clear that Taylor was experiencing some emotional distress at the time of her arrest, the record before us shows that she was otherwise sufficiently rational to recount the events to her mother and the arresting officer regarding her initial punching of the victim. Taylor also possessed the presence of mind to formulate a version of what transpired regarding the gun but then changed her account when confronted with the facts by the arresting officer. Taylor voluntarily waived her rights and freely spoke with the arresting officer without expressing any desire to stop the interview, remain silent or ask for a lawyer. Considering the totality of the circumstances presented here, we cannot find that Taylor's emotional distress was severe enough to render her statements involuntary. Thus, we are constrained to find that the trial court abused its discretion in suppressing Taylor's custodial statements on grounds that her statements were not free and voluntary. The writ is granted, and the ruling of the trial court is reversed. This matter is remanded for further proceedings.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this 10 day of September, 2025.

JGO _____ COM

SDS STONE, J., would deny.

FILED: September 10, 2025

Molly Melton
DEPUTY CLERK