(Docket No. 132703)
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Appellee, v.
JOHN W. FINNEY, Appellant.
Opinion filed November 19, 2026.

Justice Cunningham delivered the judgment of the court, with opinion.

John Finney was detained pretrial on first degree murder charges for the shooting death of his wife. The appellate court affirmed his pretrial detention, reviewing under the manifest weight of the evidence standard because live testimony was presented at the preliminary hearing.

The supreme court found that, because Finney had since been convicted of the charges against him and was no longer subject to pretrial detention, his appeal was moot, meaning the court could no longer grant him any effective relief, even if it agreed with his argument. Noting the narrow class of people who would be affected by Finney's issue—the proper standard of review when an initial detention hearing includes only proffered evidence but the later hearing on a motion for relief considers prior live testimony—the court found application of the public-interest exception to the mootness doctrine was not warranted here. Finney's appeal was dismissed and the appellate court opinion vacated.