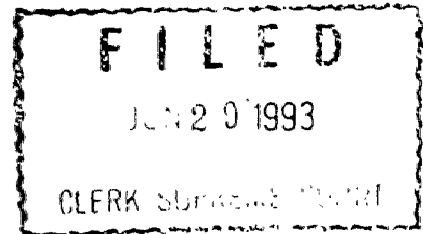


IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 3-243 / 92-977



STATE OF IOWA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

vs.

CHRIS ALLEN ATKINSON,
Defendant-Appellant.

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Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Cedar County,
Jack L. Burns, Judge.

Chris Allen Atkinson appeals from his conviction,
following a jury trial, of robbery in the first degree.

AFFIRMED.

Linda Del Gallo, State Appellate Defender, and Patricia
Reynolds Lapointe, Assistant State Appellant Defender, for
appellant.

Bonnie J. Campbell, Attorney General, Bridget A.
Chambers, Assistant Attorney General, and Lee W. Beine,
County Attorney, for appellee.

Considered by Donielson, P.J., and Sackett and Habhab,
JJ.

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PER CURIAM.

Defendant-appellant Chris Allen Atkinson was convicted of robbery in the first degree. He contends there is not sufficient evidence to support the conviction and his trial counsel was not effective. We affirm.

Defendant and Kenneth Taylor allegedly robbed a Casey's store in Clarence, Iowa. Taylor testified at trial giving evidence that clearly detailed the facts of the robbery and defendant's participation in it. Defendant contends Taylor was an accomplice and his testimony was not corroborated.

Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 20(3) provides:

A conviction cannot be had upon the testimony of an accomplice or a solicited person, unless corroborated by other evidence which shall tend to connect the defendant with the commission of the offense; and the corroboration is not sufficient if it merely shows the commission of the offense or the circumstances thereof.

Corroborative evidence must provide significant verification of the accomplice's testimony. See State v. Martin, 274 N.W.2d 348, 350 (Iowa 1979). It is deemed necessary because it connects the defendant to the crime without the accomplice's testimony and it balances the credibility of the testimony of an accomplice who has an obvious interest in blaming the defendant. See State v. Brown, 397 N.W.2d 689, 694 (Iowa 1986); State v. Berney, 378 N.W.2d 915, 918 (Iowa 1985).

Our review of the evidence convinces us the testimony of Taylor was sufficiently corroborated. However, probably the most telling evidence was defendant's statement to

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Sheriff Ken Whitlatch the night of the incident that he had held up the Casey store in Clarence with Taylor and defendant went in the store with the gun, pulled the gun on the clerk and told her to put money in the bag. Defendant later changed his testimony. However, the statement given the night of the event is sufficient corroboration. We affirm on this issue.

Defendant's second contention is a general allegation his trial counsel did not properly investigate and we should reserve for him a possible claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. Defendant provides no evidence of what his trial counsel failed to investigate. The evidence supporting defendant's conviction is very substantial. There is no obvious omission of trial counsel in this record. We will not reserve a postconviction claim of ineffective trial counsel where defendant has failed to present information sufficient to allow us to make an initial assessment of his or her contention. We deny defendant's request that we reserve this claim. See State v. White, 337 N.W.2d 519-20 (Iowa 1983).

We affirm.

AFFIRMED.