

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Reed v. MacPheat

2016 MT 76N (Mont. 2016) (Supreme Court of the State of Montana 2016) · No. DA 15-0622 · Decided March 29, 2016

SUMMARY

The Montana Supreme Court affirmed a district court order upholding a temporary restraining order obtained by Mary E. Reed against William R. MacPheat. The Court held that MacPheat had consented to the TRO and had not preserved the arguments raised on appeal, and it found no abuse of discretion. The memorandum opinion was designated noncitatable under the Montana Supreme Court Internal Operating Rules.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of Montana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Mike McGrath, Chief Justice; Beth Baker; Michael E. Wheat; Laurie McKinnon; Jim Rice
JURISDICTION	Montana
DECIDED	March 29, 2016
DOCKET	DA 15-0622
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	MacPheat appealed a temporary restraining order from Missoula Municipal Court to the Missoula District Court, which affirmed the municipal court order. He then appealed to the Montana Supreme Court.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	An order to amend a temporary restraining order is reviewed for abuse of discretion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	William R. MacPheat v. Mary E. Reed

TOPICS

[appellate procedure](#)[preservation of error](#)[standard of review](#)[injunctions](#)[civil procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court erred in affirming the temporary restraining order.
2. Whether the Montana Supreme Court could consider MacPheat's new arguments and objections when they were not preserved in the municipal court record and he had consented to the TRO.

HOLDINGS

1. The court declined to address MacPheat's novel issues and new arguments because they were not presented to or preserved in the lower court.
2. The court found no abuse of discretion in the temporary restraining order and affirmed the district court's judgment.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“It is based on the principle that it is fundamentally unfair to fault the trial court for failing to rule correctly on an issue it was never given the opportunity to consider.” (¶ 6)

“Furthermore, it is unfair to allow a party to choose to remain silent in the trial court in the face of error, taking a chance on a favorable outcome, and subsequently assert error on appeal if the outcome in the trial court is unfavorable.” (¶ 6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Reed had been MacPheat's mental-health provider until October 2014. After the professional relationship ended, MacPheat repeatedly contacted Reed by text messages and letters between October and December 2014. Reed obtained a temporary restraining order, and MacPheat participated in negotiating its terms at the municipal-court hearing, agreed to its final structure, and declined the judge's invitation to make further modifications.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Reed petitioned for a temporary restraining order in Missoula Municipal Court, and the petition was granted after a January 8, 2015 hearing. MacPheat appealed to the Missoula District Court, which affirmed the order on February 20, 2015. The Montana Supreme Court affirmed, concluding that MacPheat had consented to the TRO and had not preserved the objections and arguments he sought to raise.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Lockhead v. Lockhead, 2013 MT 368, ¶ 12, 373 Mont. 120, 314 P.3d 915
- Siebken v. Voderberg, 2015 MT 296, ¶ 19, 381 Mont. 256, 359 P.3d 1073

- Day v. Payne, 280 Mont. 273, 276-77, 929 P.2d 864, 866 (1996)

OPINION

Reed v. MacPheat

2016 MT 76N

PER CURIAM.

March 29 2016 DA 15-0622 Case Number: DA 15-0622

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

2016 MT 76N

MARY E. REED,

Petitioner and Appellee, v.

WILLIAM R. MACPHEAT,

Respondent and Appellant. APPEAL FROM: District Court of the Fourth Judicial District, In and For the County of Missoula, Cause No. DV-15-75 Honorable John W. Larson, Presiding Judge COUNSEL OF RECORD: For Appellant: William R. MacPheat (Self-Represented), Missoula, Montana For Appellee: Joshua S. Van de Wetering, Van de Wetering Law Offices, P.C., Missoula, Montana Submitted on Briefs: February 24, 2016 Decided: March 29, 2016 Filed:

_____ Clerk Chief Justice Mike McGrath delivered the Opinion of the Court. ¶1 Pursuant to Section I, Paragraph 3(c), Montana Supreme Court Internal Operating Rules, this case is decided by memorandum opinion and shall not be cited and does not serve as precedent. Its case title, cause number, and disposition shall be included in this Court's quarterly list of noncitable cases published in the Pacific Reporter and Montana Reports. ¶2 This case arises from a temporary restraining order ("TRO") obtained by Mary Reed ("Reed") against William MacPheat ("MacPheat"). Reed petitioned for a TRO with assistance from the Missoula Crime Victim Advocate Program on December 24, 2014. A hearing was held on January 8, 2015, in Missoula Municipal Court, and the petition for the TRO was granted. MacPheat filed an appeal to Missoula District Court, and a hearing was held on February 20, 2015. The Missoula District Court affirmed the Municipal Court Order. MacPheat filed a notice of appeal to the Montana Supreme Court on October 15, 2015. We affirm. ¶3 We review an order to amend a temporary restraining order for abuse of discretion. Lockhead v. Lockhead, 2013 MT 368, ¶ 12, 373 Mont. 120, 314 P.3d 915. ¶4 Reed was MacPheat's mental health provider for several months until October 2014. Between October and December 2014, MacPheat repeatedly contacted Reed through text messages and letters. This continuous contact after Reed terminated the client relationship occasioned the eventual TRO petition. The record in this case was developed during the January 8, 2015 hearing in Missoula Municipal Court. Prior to the 2 hearing, MacPheat conversed with opposing counsel and reached an agreement regarding the TRO. Thereafter, MacPheat attended the hearing, and when opposing counsel introduced the negotiated agreement, MacPheat interjected to clarify elements of the proposal. At the end of the hearing, the judge

invited him to add to the arrangement he had actively participated in developing. MacPheat declined to further modify the TRO and agreed to its final structure. ¶5 A few weeks after the January 8 hearing, MacPheat appealed; the District Court affirmed based on the record. Now, over a year after he had agreed to the TRO in Municipal Court, MacPheat appeals the TRO to this Court, and raises nine separate issues, some of which are novel and all of which are unsupported by the record. ¶6 Parties to a case are entitled to seek review of a municipal court order in district court, but are bound by the record developed in the lower court. Section 3-11-110(1), MCA. Further, as we have said repeatedly, as a general rule, we will not consider novel issues, or new arguments on appeal. *Siebken v. Voderberg*, 2015 MT 296, ¶ 19, 381 Mont. 256, 359 P.3d 1073; *Day v. Payne*, 280 Mont. 273, 276, 929 P.2d 864, 866 (1996). This rule exists to protect the integrity of the trial courts and the appeals process, and to ensure the fairness of litigation between parties to a suit. The rule is a hallmark of the American justice system because: [i]t is based on the principle that it is fundamentally unfair to fault the trial court for failing to rule correctly on an issue it was never given the opportunity to consider. Furthermore, it is unfair to allow a party to choose to remain silent in the trial court in the face of error, taking a chance on a favorable outcome, and subsequently assert error on appeal if the outcome in the trial court is unfavorable. 3 *Payne*, 280 Mont. at 276-77, 929 P.2d at 866. Here, MacPheat's appeal runs afoul of this rule. The electronic recording from the Municipal Court shows not only that MacPheat failed to record his objections for the court to properly address them, but also that he conclusively consented to the TRO. Consequently, there is no factual or legal basis for his appeal. As a result, we are obliged to decline to address his arguments, and based on our review of the record, we cannot agree that an abuse of discretion has occurred. ¶7 We have determined to decide this case pursuant to Section I, Paragraph 3(c) of our Internal Operating Rules, which provides for memorandum opinions. In the opinion of the Court, this case presents a question controlled by settled law or by the clear application of applicable standards of review. ¶8 Affirmed.

/S/ MIKE McGRATH

We Concur:

/S/ BETH BAKER

/S/ MICHAEL E WHEAT

/S/ LAURIE McKINNON

/S/ JIM RICE