

COURT OF APPEALS OF TEXAS, FIFTH DISTRICT AT DALLAS

Juan Martin Pedroza v. State

No. 05-19-01570-CR (Tex. App.—Dallas Oct. 30, 2020) · No. No. 05-19-01570-CR · Decided October 30, 2020

SUMMARY

The Fifth District Court of Appeals at Dallas abated the appeal to resolve conflicting records concerning the appellant’s waiver of appeal rights and the trial court’s certification. The court ordered the trial court to issue an amended certification addressing whether the appellant was granted permission to appeal after pleading guilty pursuant to an agreement involving a punishment cap.

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Order entered October 30, 2020 In The Court of Appeals Fifth District of Texas at Dallas No. 05-19-01570-CR JUAN MARTIN PEDROZA, Appellant V. THE STATE OF TEXAS, Appellee On Appeal from the Criminal District Court No. 1 Dallas County, Texas Trial Court Cause No. F18-75239-H ORDER Appellant was charged with and convicted of the first-degree offense of murder.

After reviewing the record in this appeal, the Court has questions concerning its jurisdiction over this appeal. The clerk’s record shows that, on October 9, 2019, appellant entered into a written plea bargain agreement with the State in which he agreed to plead guilty and waive his right to appeal.

The agreement is signed by appellant, appellant’s counsel, the State, and the trial judge. Although the written agreement states it is an “open” plea, the reporter’s record reflects that the State and appellant agreed to “cap” punishment at twenty-five years in prison in exchange for appellant’s guilty plea.

However, the clerk’s record contains a December 6, 2019 certification of appellant’s right to appeal, stating this “is a not a plea-bargain case, and the defendant has the right of appeal.” Furthermore, after sentencing, the trial court stated, “There will be a trial certification because this was an open case.” A defendant waives his right to appeal when he agrees to plead guilty in exchange for the State’s recommendation of a cap on punishment, and the trial court follows the agreement.

See *Shankle v. State*, 119 S.W.3d 808, 813–14 (Tex. Crim. App. 2003); *Carender v. State*, 155 S.W.3d 929, 931 (Tex. App.—Dallas 2005, no pet.). Under these circumstances, the requirements of rule 25.2(a)(2) apply. *Shankle*, 119 S.W.3d at 813–14.

Because we are faced with a conflicting record concerning our jurisdiction, we will abate this appeal for the trial court to clarify whether appellant, who otherwise waived his right of appeal by entering into a plea bargain agreement with the State, was granted permission to appeal by the trial court. Cf. *Taylor v. State*, 247 S.W.3d 223, 224 (Tex. Crim. App.

2008) (the appellate court should abate for the trial court to clarify whether it intended to grant a motion for new trial or an appeal). We ORDER the Honorable Tina Yoo Clinton, Presiding Judge, Criminal District Court No. 1, to issue, on or before November 13, 2020, an amended certification of appellant's right of appeal that accurately reflects the trial court proceedings.

If necessary, the judge may review the reporter's record or clerk's record to refresh her recollection of the proceedings. See *Wicker v. State*, 740 S.W.2d 779, 784 (Tex. Crim. App. 1987). We ORDER Dallas County Clerk Felicia Pitre to file a supplemental clerk's record containing the trial court's amended certification of appellant's right to appeal on or before November 20, 2020.

We DIRECT the Clerk of this Court to send a copy of this order to the Honorable Tina Yoo Clinton, Presiding Judge, Criminal District Court No. 1; Dallas County Clerk Felicia Pitre; and counsel for the parties. We ABATE the appeal to allow the trial court an opportunity to comply with this order. It shall be reinstated when the supplemental clerk's record is filed or the Court deems it appropriate to do so. /s/ LANA MYERS JUSTICE