

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, FOURTH DISTRICT

Kenneth Lindsey Mayfield v. State of Florida

No. 4D2025-0356 (Fla. 4th DCA Jan. 21, 2026) · No. 4D2025-0356 · Decided January 21, 2026

SUMMARY

The Fourth District Court of Appeal of Florida affirmed the county court’s judgment in a per curiam decision. Judge Lott concurred separately to discuss concerns about Florida’s use of per curiam affirmances and to advocate for a possible selective-publication system that would permit nonprecedential opinions explaining the court’s reasoning.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida, Fourth District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; MAY, J.; CIKLIN, J.; LOTT, J.
JURISDICTION	Florida District Court of Appeal, Fourth District
DECIDED	January 21, 2026
DOCKET	4D2025-0356
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from a judgment of the County Court for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for St. Lucie County; the district court summarily affirmed per curiam without written opinion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Kenneth Lindsey Mayfield v. State of Florida

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure
- final judgment rule

PRACTICE AREAS

- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the appeal should be summarily affirmed without a written majority opinion.

2. Whether Florida should adopt a selective-publication system permitting short, nonprecedential written appellate opinions.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The PCA, and its cousin the “citation PCA,” are the lone exceptions to the precedent rule.” (3)

“ “[A] per curiam affirmance decision without written opinion has no precedential value and should not be relied on for anything other than res judicata.” ” (3)

“This is all quite hypothetical for now. It does not appear that any mechanism for selective publication could come about without concerted change to Supreme Court precedent and the appellate rules.” (6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion contains no substantive factual background concerning the underlying criminal case. The appeal was resolved by summary affirmance, and the separate concurrence addresses appellate publication and disposition practices rather than the underlying facts.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Mayfield appealed a county-court judgment in a misdemeanor case. The Fourth District issued a per curiam summary affirmance. Judge Lott joined the summary affirmance and filed a separate concurrence discussing Florida's per curiam affirmance practice and the possibility of selective publication.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Pardo v. State, 596 So. 2d 665, 666 (Fla. 1992)
- State v. Swartz, 734 So. 2d 448, 448 (Fla. 4th DCA 1999)
- Fox v. Fox, 262 So. 3d 789, 792 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018)
- BAM Trading Services, Inc. v. Office of Fin. Regulation, 395 So. 3d 687, 694 n.* (Fla. 1st DCA 2024)
- Nader v. Fla. Dep’t. of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles, 87 So. 3d 712, 724 (Fla. 2012)
- Persaud v. State, 838 So. 2d 529, 532 (Fla. 2003)
- Jollie v. State, 405 So. 2d 418, 422 (Fla. 1981)
- State Comm’n on Ethics v. Sullivan, 430 So. 2d 928, 932 (Fla. 1st DCA 1983)
- Whipple v. State, 431 So. 2d 1011, 1012 (Fla. 2d DCA 1983)
- Williams v. State, 425 So. 2d 1163, 1164 n.1 (Fla. 5th DCA 1983)
- Elliott v. Elliott, 648 So. 2d 137, 138 (Fla. 4th DCA 1994)
- Horn v. Marine Hosp. Corp., 745 So. 2d 329, 330 (Fla. 4th DCA 1998)
- Foley v. Weaver Drugs, Inc., 172 So. 2d 907, 908 n.2 (Fla. 3d DCA 1965)

- Crittenden v. State, 67 So. 3d 1184, 1185 n.1 (Fla. 5th DCA 2011)
- Jennings v. Sec’y, Fla. Dep’t of Corr., 108 F.4th 1299, 1304 (11th Cir. 2024)
- Rodemaker v. City of Valdosta Bd. of Educ., 110 F.4th 1318, 1326 (11th Cir. 2024)
- Patterson v. Georgia Pac., LLC, 38 F.4th 1336, 1346 (11th Cir. 2022)

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