

LOUISIANA COURT OF APPEAL, FOURTH CIRCUIT

State of Louisiana v. Jerroy Holden

No. 2025-K-0778 (La. Ct. App. 4th Cir. Dec. 30, 2025) · No. 2025-K-0778 · Decided December 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal granted the State’s writ application and reversed the district court’s finding of no probable cause on a charge of introducing contraband into a correctional facility. The court held that a firearm discovered on the defendant’s body after his arrival at the Orleans Justice Center constituted contraband under La. R.S. 14:402 and that the statute does not require general or specific criminal intent. The court concluded that the State established the requisite elements for purposes of the preliminary hearing.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Karen K. Herman; Roland L. Belsome, Chief Judge; Sandra Cabrina Jenkins, Judge; Karen K. Herman, Judge
JURISDICTION	Louisiana Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit
DECIDED	December 30, 2025
DOCKET	2025-K-0778
DISPOSITION	reversed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The State of Louisiana sought supervisory review of the district court's ruling finding no probable cause to charge Holden with introducing contraband into a correctional facility.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On preliminary-hearing review, the issue is whether the State presented sufficient evidence to establish probable cause—a prima facie case—that the defendant committed the charged offense.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	State of Louisiana v. Jerroy Holden

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- preliminary hearing
- probable cause
- statutory interpretation
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the State established probable cause at the preliminary hearing that Holden introduced contraband into a correctional facility under La. R.S. 14:402.
2. Whether La. R.S. 14:402 requires proof of general or specific criminal intent.
3. Whether the firearm and the Orleans Justice Center satisfied the statutory definitions of contraband and correctional facility.

HOLDINGS

1. The State established probable cause that Holden introduced contraband into a correctional facility.
2. La. R.S. 14:402 does not require proof of either general or specific intent.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The primary function of the preliminary examination is to determine if there is probable cause to believe a defendant has committed a crime in order to hold him on his bond obligation for trial.” (3)

“Probable cause exists when the facts and circumstances are sufficient to justify a man of average caution in the belief that the person has committed a crime.” (3)

“Even conceding defendant involuntarily entered the correctional facility due to his arrest, the State was not required to establish specific intent for this charge.” (4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Holden was arrested during an investigation involving an allegedly unauthorized use of a vehicle and was found in possession of marijuana. He was transported to the Orleans Justice Center, where a body scanner subsequently detected a loaded firearm in his groin area; the firearm had not been found during earlier pat-down searches. The district court concluded that Holden lacked criminal intent to introduce the firearm into the jail and later maintained its no-probable-cause ruling on the ground that there was no evidence he voluntarily acted to bring the weapon into the facility.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The State charged Holden by bill of information with several offenses, including introducing contraband into a correctional facility. After a hearing on Holden's motion to suppress and request for a preliminary hearing, the Criminal District Court for Orleans Parish found probable cause on the other charges but no probable cause on the contraband charge. The State filed a writ application, and the Louisiana Fourth Circuit granted the writ and reversed.

DISPOSITION

reversed

CASES CITED

- State v. Baham, 2013-0901, p. 3 (La. 6/28/13), 117 So. 3d 505, 507
- State v. McMillan, 2002-0181, p. 6 (La. App. 3 Cir. 6/12/02), 819 So. 2d 503, 507
- State v. Converse, 529 So. 2d 459, 466 (La. App. 1 Cir. 1988)

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