

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

State v. Black

142 Ohio St. 3d 332 (Ohio 2015) · Decided February 19, 2015

SUMMARY

The Ohio Supreme Court held that the phrase "penal or correctional institution of a party state" in the Interstate Agreement on Detainers, codified at Ohio Revised Code 2963.30, includes county jails as well as state prisons and correctional facilities. The court affirmed the Fifth District Court of Appeals and rejected the contrary interpretation adopted by the Eighth District. The decision addressed whether the IAD's speedy-disposition provisions applied to James Black while he was serving a sentence in a Maryland county jail.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Ohio
WRITING FOR THE COURT	O'Connor, C.J.; Pfeifer, J.; Lanzinger, J.; French, J.; O'Neill, J.; O'Donnell, J.; Kennedy, J.
JURISDICTION	Ohio
DECIDED	February 19, 2015
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The State appealed from the Fifth District Court of Appeals' judgment reversing the Ashland County Common Pleas Court's denial of Black's motion to dismiss. The Supreme Court of Ohio accepted a certified conflict with the Eighth District and consolidated the conflict actions to decide whether the Interstate Agreement on Detainers applies to a prisoner serving a sentence in an out-of-state county jail.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court interpreted the Interstate Agreement on Detainers and the statute codifying it as a question of law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published, precedential Supreme Court of Ohio decision; binding on Ohio courts.
PARTIES	State of Ohio v. James Black

TOPICS

- interstate compacts
- statutory interpretation
- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- federalism

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal procedure

interstate detainers

speedy trial

statutory interpretation

interstate compacts

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the phrase "penal or correctional institution of a party state" in Article III of the Interstate Agreement on Detainers, codified at R.C. 2963.30, includes a county jail.
2. Whether the IAD applies to a prisoner who has begun serving a sentence in a county jail rather than a state prison or correctional facility.

HOLDINGS

1. The phrase "penal or correctional institution of a party state" in R.C. 2963.30 includes a county jail as well as a state prison or correctional facility.
2. The IAD applies to a prisoner serving a sentence in a county jail, so long as the prisoner has begun serving the sentence.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Accordingly, we conclude that the term "penal or correctional institution of a party state" in R.C. 2963.30 can encompass a county jail as well as a state prison or correctional facility so long as the prisoner has begun serving his or her sentence." (at 344)

"We therefore answer the certified question as follows: the term "penal or correctional institution of a party state," as used in R.C. 2963.30, includes a county jail as well as a state prison or correctional facility." (at 344)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

James Black was indicted in Ashland County for theft and breaking and entering while he was in Maryland. He began serving a one-year sentence in the Cecil County Detention Center, a Maryland county jail, and invoked the Interstate Agreement on Detainers to seek disposition of the Ohio charges. He was transferred to Ohio, later returned to Maryland before trial, and moved to dismiss the Ashland County charges on the ground that the IAD's speedy-trial time limits had been violated.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Black was indicted in Ashland County while being held and later sentenced in a Maryland county detention center. After he invoked the Interstate Agreement on Detainers, the Ashland County trial court concluded that the agreement did not apply to a prisoner incarcerated in a county jail and denied his motion to dismiss. Black was convicted, and the Fifth District reversed, creating a conflict with the Eighth District's decision in *State v. Wyer*. The Supreme Court of Ohio accepted the certified conflict and affirmed the Fifth District.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Cuyler v. Adams, 449 U.S. 433, 101 S.Ct. 703, 66 L.Ed.2d 641 (1981)
- United States v. Mauro, 436 U.S. 340, 98 S.Ct. 1834, 56 L.Ed.2d 329 (1978)
- Carchman v. Nash, 473 U.S. 716, 105 S.Ct. 3401, 87 L.Ed.2d 516 (1985)
- United States v. Palmer, 574 F.2d 164 (3d Cir. 1978)
- United States v. Taylor, 173 F.3d 538 (6th Cir. 1999)
- State v. Wyer, 8th Dist. Cuyahoga No. 82962, 2003-Ohio-6926, 2003 WL 22976573
- Escalanti v. Maricopa Cty. Superior Ct., 165 Ariz. 385, 799 P.2d 5 (App. 1990)
- State v. Breen, 126 Idaho 305, 882 P.2d 472 (App. 1994)
- State v. Wade, 105 Nev. 206, 772 P.2d 1291 (1989)
- Dorsey v. State, 490 N.E.2d 260 (Ind. 1986)
- People v. Walton, 167 P.3d 163 (Colo. App. 2007)
- State v. Lock, 839 S.W.2d 436 (Tenn. Crim. App. 1992)
- Felix v. United States, 508 A.2d 101 (D.C. App. 1986)
- Boley v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., 125 Ohio St. 3d 510, 2010-Ohio-2550, 929 N.E.2d 448
- State v. Jordan, 89 Ohio St. 3d 488, 733 N.E.2d 601 (2000)
- State ex rel. Toledo Edison Co. v. Clyde, 76 Ohio St. 3d 508, 668 N.E.2d 498 (1996)
- Wachendorf v. Shaver, 149 Ohio St. 231, 78 N.E.2d 370 (1948)
- United States v. Dobson, 585 F.2d 55 (3d Cir. 1978)
- United States v. Roberts, 548 F.2d 665 (6th Cir. 1977)
- Runck v. State, 497 N.W.2d 74 (N.D. 1993)
- State v. Springer, 406 S.W.3d 526 (Tenn. 2013)