

THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA

Clifton Sheppard v. State of Florida

No. 3D25-1039 (Fla. 3d DCA Aug. 6, 2025) · No. No. 3D25-1039 · Decided August 6, 2025

SUMMARY

The Third District Court of Appeal of Florida affirmed the denial of Clifton Sheppard's post-conviction appeal under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(b)(2). The court relied on precedent holding that a life sentence is not unconstitutionally indefinite under article I, section 17 of the Florida Constitution.

OPINION

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PER CURIAM.

Third District Court of Appeal State of Florida Opinion filed August 6, 2025. Not final until disposition of timely filed motion for rehearing. _____ No. 3D25-1039 Lower Tribunal No. F97-29169A _____ Clifton Sheppard, Appellant, vs. State of Florida, Appellee. An Appeal under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(b)(2) from the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, Ramiro C. Areces, Judge. Clifton Sheppard, in proper person. James Uthmeier, Attorney General, for appellee. Before EMAS, GORDO and LOBREE, JJ. PER CURIAM. Affirmed. See Padgett v. State, No. 3D25-349, — So. 3d —, 2025 WL 1172840, at *1 (Fla. 3d DCA April 23, 2025) (“A life sentence is not impermissible ‘indefinite imprisonment’ under the Florida Constitution. Art. I, § 17, Fla. Const.” (citing Ratliff v. State, 914 So. 2d 938, 940 (Fla. 2005) (“Any sentence, even one of a short duration, can potentially exceed a defendant's life span. The fact that the judicial system has no way of knowing how long the defendant will live and therefore cannot know how long the defendant will be incarcerated does not render a life sentence unconstitutionally indefinite. It is abundantly clear that the Legislature, by prescribing a sentence of life imprisonment, intends that the defendant remain in prison for the rest of his life. The term ‘life’ is sufficiently definite so that it can be understood and applied.”))) (additional citations omitted). 2