

SIXTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Robert E. Rowles v. State of Florida

No. 6D2025-2803, Sixth District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida (June 5, 2026)

SUMMARY

The Sixth District Court of Appeal of Florida affirmed the Lee County Circuit Court's decision in an appeal under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(b)(2). The court cited Ratliff v. State for the principle that a sentence of life imprisonment means imprisonment for the remainder of the defendant's life.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Sixth District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Smith, J.; Mize, J.; Kamoutsas, J.
JURISDICTION	Florida Sixth District Court of Appeal
DECIDED	June 5, 2026
DOCKET	6D2025-2803
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal pursuant to Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(b)(2) from the Circuit Court for Lee County.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Robert E. Rowles v. State of Florida

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- post-conviction relief
- sentencing
- criminal procedure
- statutory interpretation

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- post-conviction relief
- appellate procedure
- sentencing

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the challenged circuit-court disposition should be affirmed in light of the rule that a sentence of life imprisonment requires imprisonment for the remainder of the defendant's life and is sufficiently definite to be understood and applied.

HOLDINGS

- 1. A sentence prescribing life imprisonment means that the defendant is to remain in prison for the rest of his life, and the term "life" is sufficiently definite to be understood and applied.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“[T]he 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.”

(940)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion provides no underlying factual narrative. It identifies the appellant, the Lee County circuit-court case, and the appeal under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(b)(2). The court's reasoning concerns the legal meaning and definiteness of a sentence of life imprisonment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Rowles appealed from a circuit-court proceeding in Lee County. The Sixth District Court of Appeal affirmed the circuit court's disposition without further explanation, relying on *Ratliff v. State*.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Ratliff v. State*, 914 So. 2d 938, 940 (Fla. 2005)

OPINION

Robert E. Rowles v. State of Florida

PER CURIAM.

SIXTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

STATE OF FLORIDA

Case No. 6D2025-2803 Lower Tribunal No. 2011-CF-014131

ROBERT E. ROWLES,

Appellant, v.

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Appellee. _____ Appeal pursuant to Fla. R. App. P. 9.141(b)(2) from the Circuit Court for Lee County. Bruce Kyle, Judge. June 5, 2026 PER CURIAM. AFFIRMED. See *Ratliff v. State*, 914 So. 2d 938, 940 (Fla. 2005) (“[T]he 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.”). SMITH, MIZE and KAMOUTSAS, JJ., concur. Robert E. Rowles, Miami, pro se. James Uthmeier, Attorney General, Tallahassee, and Ceresse Crawford Taylor, Chief Assistant Attorney General, Tampa, for Appellee.

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO FILE MOTION FOR REHEARING AND
DISPOSITION THEREOF IF TIMELY FILED

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