

FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA

Jett v. State of Florida

No. 1D2023-3158 · No. No. 1D2023-3158 · Decided December 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The First District Court of Appeal of Florida affirmed Dalton Reid Jett’s judgment and sentence for burglary of a dwelling and grand theft. The court held that any Alleyne error in determining Jett’s prison releasee reoffender status without submitting the issue to a jury was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt because uncontroverted evidence established his qualifying prior release and identity. A concurrence discussed whether the alleged sentencing error was preserved under Florida law.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	First District Court of Appeal of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Rowe, J.; Ray, J.; Tanenbaum, J.
JURISDICTION	First District Court of Appeal of Florida
DECIDED	December 10, 2025
DOCKET	No. 1D2023-3158
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Jett appealed his judgment and sentence for burglary of a dwelling and grand theft, challenging the constitutionality of his sentence as a prison releasee reoffender.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Harmless error is reviewed under the beyond-a-reasonable-doubt standard; reversal is warranted only upon a determination from review of the complete record that prejudicial error occurred.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Dalton Reid Jett v. State of Florida

TOPICS

- sentencing
- harmless error
- sixth amendment
- criminal procedure
- preservation of error

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal law
- sentencing
- appellate practice
- constitutional criminal procedure
- harmless error

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court violated *Alleyne* by determining, rather than submitting to a jury, the fact that Jett committed the burglary within three years of release from a prior term of imprisonment for purposes of the prison releasee reoffender sentencing enhancement.
2. Whether any *Alleyne* error was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

HOLDINGS

1. Any error in failing to submit to a jury the determination that Jett committed the burglary within three years of his release from a prior term of imprisonment was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“On this record, there can be no reasonable doubt that Jett qualified as a PRR.” (at 2)

“Based on the uncontroverted evidence, any error in not submitting the PRR determination to a jury was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.” (at 2)

“The error alleged here is harmless if the record establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that “a rational jury,” if properly instructed, “would have found” the fact necessary to qualify Jett for the sentencing enhancement.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jett was released from prison less than one month before committing the burglary at issue. The State introduced a certified Department of Corrections Crime and Time Report, referred to as a penitentiary packet, and presented fingerprint-analysis testimony matching the fingerprints on that packet to Jett. The expert's supervisor independently reviewed and verified the fingerprint match, and the evidence establishing Jett's prison-releasee-reoffender status was uncontroverted.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Circuit Court for Leon County entered judgment and sentenced Jett as a prison releasee reoffender. Jett argued on appeal that the trial court violated *Alleyne* by finding the fact necessary to establish his prison releasee reoffender status rather than submitting that fact to a jury. The First District Court of Appeal affirmed, concluding that any error was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Alleyne v. United States*, 570 U.S. 99, 114–15 (2013)
- *State v. Manago*, 375 So. 3d 190, 199 (Fla. 2023)
- *Williams v. State*, 242 So. 3d 280, 290 (Fla. 2018)

- Hicks v. State, 50 Fla. L. Weekly D2238a (Fla. 1st DCA Oct. 15, 2025)
- Dowdell v. State, 50 Fla. L. Weekly D2236c (Fla. 1st DCA Oct. 15, 2025)
- McGlaun v. State, 50 Fla. L. Weekly D2178a (Fla. 1st DCA Oct. 1, 2025)
- Neder v. United States, 527 U.S. 1, 19 (1999)
- Plott v. State, 148 So. 3d 90 (Fla. 2014)
- Jackson v. State, 983 So. 2d 562, 574 (Fla. 2008)
- Maye v. State, 368 So. 3d 531 (Fla. 6th DCA 2023), rev. granted, No. SC2023-1184, 2024 WL 1796831 (Fla. Apr. 25, 2024)
- Emerson v. State, 412 So. 3d 917, 932–36 (Fla. 1st DCA 2025) (Tanenbaum, J., concurring)

OPINION

Jett v. State of Florida

PER CURIAM.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

STATE OF FLORIDA

_____ No. 1D2023-3158 _____

DALTON REID JETT,

Appellant, v.

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Appellee. _____ On appeal from the Circuit Court for Leon County. Stephen S. Everett, Judge. December 10, 2025 PER CURIAM. Dalton Reid Jett appeals his judgment and sentence for burglary of a dwelling and grand theft. We affirm and write only to address his claim that his sentence as a prison releasee reoffender (“PRR”) is unconstitutional. Jett contends that the trial court committed Alleyne * error by making the factual * Alleyne v. United States, 570 U.S. 99, 114–15 (2013) (reaffirming that “[w]hen a finding of fact alters the legally prescribed punishment so as to aggravate it, the fact necessarily determination necessary to establish his PRR status—specifically, that he committed the burglary within three years of his release from a prior term of imprisonment. Even if error occurred, we are satisfied that it was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. “A judgment or sentence may be reversed on appeal only when an appellate court determines after a review of the complete record that prejudicial error occurred” § 924.051(3), Fla. Stat. The error alleged here is harmless if the record establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that “a rational jury,” if properly instructed, “would have found” the fact necessary to qualify Jett for the sentencing enhancement. See State v. Manago, 375 So. 3d 190, 199 (Fla. 2023) (quoting Williams v. State, 242 So. 3d 280, 290 (Fla. 2018) (setting forth the harmless error test for Alleyne violations)). In applying this standard, we consider “the weight of the evidence in the record, including credibility concerns, and any conflicting evidence” that bears on the fact in question. Manago, 375 So. 3d at 199. On this record, there can be no reasonable doubt that Jett qualified as a PRR. The State introduced a certified copy of the Department of

Corrections Crime and Time Report, referred to by the prosecutor and trial court as the “penitentiary packet” or “pen pack.” That document showed that Jett was released from prison less than one month before committing the burglary in this case. The State’s fingerprint analysis expert testified that the fingerprints on the pen pack matched Jett’s fingerprints, and the expert’s supervisor independently reviewed and verified the match. Based on the uncontroverted evidence, any error in not submitting the PRR determination to a jury was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. See *Hicks v. State*, 50 Fla. L. Weekly D2238a (Fla. 1st DCA Oct. 15, 2025); *Dowdell v. State*, 50 Fla. L. Weekly D2236c (Fla. 1st DCA Oct. 15, 2025); *McGlaun v. State*, 50 Fla. L. Weekly D2178a (Fla. 1st DCA Oct. 1, 2025); see also *Neder v. U.S.*, 527 U.S. 1, 19 (1999) (“[W]here a defendant did not, and apparently could not, bring forth facts contesting the omitted forms a constituent part of a new offense and must be submitted to the jury”). 2 element, answering the question whether the jury verdict would have been the same absent the error does not fundamentally undermine the purposes of the jury trial guarantee.”). AFFIRMED. ROWE and RAY, JJ., concur; TANENBAUM, J., concurs with opinion. _____

Not final until disposition of any timely and authorized motion under Fla. R. App. P. 9.330 or 9.331. _____ TANENBAUM, J., concurring. There are several bases for us to affirm, including the one set out in the majority opinion. The more straightforward of them, however, would have been that the asserted error was not properly preserved by the defendant’s rule 3.800 motion. Yet the supreme court’s decision in *Plott v. State*, 148 So. 3d 90 (Fla. 2014) says to the contrary. Under the analysis set out by Judge Winokur’s concurring opinion in *Hicks v. State*, No. 1D2024-1300, 2025 WL 2921590, at *1 (Fla. 1st DCA Oct. 15, 2025), a so-called Apprendi error (or for that matter, an Alleyne or Erlinger error) nevertheless is a sentencing process error that must be preserved contemporaneously at sentencing—failing which, its consideration only could be under an authorized fundamental-error analysis. Cf. *Jackson v. State*, 983 So. 2d 562, 574 (Fla. 2008). I agree with Judge Winokur’s analysis on that point, and like him, hope that the supreme court conclusively addresses the viability of *Plott* in its review of *Maye v. State*, 368 So. 3d 531 (Fla. 6th DCA 2023), rev. granted, No. SC2023-1184, 2024 WL 1796831 (Fla. Apr. 25, 2024)—especially in the face of its earlier (and arguably conflicting) holding in *Jackson*. *Jackson*, in the end, better reflects the history and purpose behind the court’s adoption of that rule in 1996. See *Emerson v. State*, 412 So. 3d 917, 932–36 (Fla. 1st DCA 2025) (Tanenbaum, J., concurring) (treating *Jackson* and describing how the rule’s adoption was primarily to ensure that a 3 defendant had at least one opportunity to preserve a claimed error in the sentence itself (rather than the process producing the sentence)). _____ Jessica J. Yearly, Public Defender, and Kathryn Lane, Assistant Public Defender, Tallahassee, for Appellant. James Uthmeier, Attorney General, and Adam B. Wilson, Assistant Attorney General, Tallahassee, for Appellee. 4

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