

SUPREME COURT OF NORTH DAKOTA

State v. Oshiro

Oshiro, 2022 ND 95 (N.D. 2022) · No. 20210254–20210256 · Decided May 12, 2022

SUMMARY

The North Dakota Supreme Court dismissed Perry Oshiro’s appeal from the denial of his motion to correct his sentences. The court held the appeal moot because Oshiro had completed his concurrent revocation sentences and was released from prison while the appeal was pending, with no remaining collateral consequences.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of North Dakota
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jerod E. Tufte, Justice; Jon J. Jensen, C.J.; Gerald W. VandeWalle; Daniel J. Crothers; Lisa Fair McEvers; Jerod E. Tufte
JURISDICTION	North Dakota
DECIDED	May 12, 2022
DOCKET	20210254–20210256
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed district court orders denying motions to correct sentences in three criminal cases. While the appeal was pending, he completed his concurrent revocation sentences and was released from prison. The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal as moot.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Mootness is a threshold issue that the Court must consider before reaching the merits. An appeal is moot when the Court cannot grant effective relief, although collateral consequences may preserve a live controversy.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published North Dakota Supreme Court opinion; precedential.
PARTIES	Perry Brian Oshiro, II v. State of North Dakota

TOPICS

- mootness
- appellate procedure
- sentencing
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Oshiro's sentencing appeal became moot after he completed his prison sentence and was released without supervised release or probation to follow.
2. Whether any collateral consequences preserved a live controversy despite completion of the sentence.

HOLDINGS

1. A defendant's sentencing appeal is moot when the defendant completes the challenged prison term and is released without supervised release or probation relating to that sentence, because the court can no longer grant effective relief and no collateral consequences remain.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"When it becomes impossible for the Court to issue relief, no controversy exists and the issue is moot." (§ 6)

"An appeal becomes moot when by lapse of time or by events occurring prior to our decision this Court is unable to render effective relief." (§ 6)

"Therefore, similar to Rodriguez, this appeal presents a request for an advisory opinion because no actual controversy remains." (§ 9)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Oshiro was serving concurrent 366-day sentences imposed after revocation of probation in three criminal cases. He sought additional credit for time previously served, including 185 days credited at his original sentencing in the bribery and conspiracy case. While his appeal from the denial of that relief was pending, Oshiro completed his concurrent revocation sentences and was released from prison on December 13, 2021; his sentences included no supervised release or probation after imprisonment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Oshiro pleaded guilty in three separate criminal cases and was later resentenced following probation revocations. He moved to correct his sentences, seeking additional credit for time previously served. The district court granted some additional credit in one case but denied his request for 185 days of credit in the bribery and conspiracy case. Oshiro appealed, and the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal after he completed his prison sentence and was released without supervised release or probation to follow.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- In re W.O., 2004 ND 8, ¶ 10, 673 N.W.2d 264

- Rodriguez v. N.D. State Penitentiary, 2014 ND 49, ¶¶ 6–7, 843 N.W.2d 692
- State v. Olson, 2003 ND 23, ¶ 9, 656 N.W.2d 650
- Owen v. United States, 930 F.3d 989, 990–91 (8th Cir. 2019)
- United States v. Solano-Hernandez, 761 Fed. App'x 276, 280 (5th Cir. 2019)
- State v. Montgomery, 286 P.3d 866, 871 (Kan. 2012)
- Casiano v. State, 280 So. 3d 105, 106–07 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 2019)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPREME COURT MAY 12, 2022 STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA IN THE SUPREME COURT STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA 2022 ND 95 State of North Dakota, Plaintiff and Appellee v. Perry Brian Oshiro, II, Defendant and Appellant Nos. 20210254–20210256 Appeal from the District Court of Williams County, Northwest Judicial District, the Honorable Joshua B. Rustad, Judge.

DISMISSED. Opinion of the Court by Tufte, Justice. Nathan K. Madden, Assistant State's Attorney, Williston, N.D., for plaintiff and appellee; submitted on brief. Tyler J. Morrow (argued) and Kiara C. Kraus-Parr (on brief), Grand Forks, N.D., for defendant and appellant. State v. Oshiro Nos. 20210254–20210256 Tufte, Justice. [¶1] Perry Oshiro II appeals from a district court order denying his motion to correct his sentence.

On appeal, Oshiro argues the court illegally sentenced him because the court did not give him credit for all the days he previously had served. Because Oshiro was released from prison while this appeal was pending, we dismiss the appeal as moot. I [¶2] In 2015, Oshiro pled guilty to failure to report a change of address as a registered sex offender in violation of N.D.C.C. § 12.1-32-15(7) in case 53-2014- CR-02462.

He was sentenced, and his probation was later revoked. He was then resentenced and placed back on probation. In 2020, Oshiro's probation was revoked again, and he was resentenced to serve 366 days with no probation to follow. Oshiro filed a motion to correct his sentence to include credit for 26 days of time he previously had served.

The court granted the motion and entered an amended judgment to reflect additional credit. This sentence ran concurrently with cases 53-2015-CR-00006 and 53-2018-CR-00487. [¶3] Also in 2015, Oshiro pled guilty to theft of property in case 53-2015-CR- 00006. He was sentenced, his probation was later revoked, and he was then resentenced and placed back on probation.

In 2020, Oshiro's probation was revoked again and he was resentenced to serve 366 days to run concurrently with the other two criminal cases on appeal here with no probation to follow. [¶4] In

2019, Oshiro pled guilty to one count of bribery and one count of conspiracy to commit bribery in case 53-2018-CR-00487. He was sentenced to time served and placed on probation.

In 2020, Oshiro's probation was revoked and he was resentenced to 366 days with no probation to follow, concurrent with the 02462 and 00006 cases. Oshiro moved the court to correct his sentence in all three of his cases, seeking credit "for 185 days served in 2019 in his original Judgment in case 53-2018-CR-00487." The court denied his request for 185 days' credit, finding "the court credited the defendant with 185 days' time served at his original sentencing hearing, and he is not entitled to receive 1 double-credit for purposes of his probation revocation sentence." Oshiro appeals the court's order denying his motion to correct his sentence entered in these three cases. [¶5] Oshiro completed his revocation sentence that ran concurrently during the pendency of this appeal.

He was released from prison on December 13, 2021. II [¶6] Although neither party raises mootness, this Court must consider the threshold issue of mootness before it can reach the merits of an appeal. In re W.O., 2004 ND 8, ¶ 10, 673 N.W.2d 264. "When it becomes impossible for the Court to issue relief, no controversy exists and the issue is moot." *Rodriguez v. N.D.*

State Penitentiary, 2014 ND 49, ¶ 6, 843 N.W.2d 692. This Court does not "render advisory opinions and will dismiss an appeal if the issue becomes moot." *Id.* "An appeal becomes moot when by lapse of time or by events occurring prior to our decision this Court is unable to render effective relief." *Id.* However, "[a]n appeal is not moot if the trial court's decision continues to have collateral consequences for the appellant." *State v. Olson*, 2003 ND 23, ¶ 9, 656 N.W.2d 650. [¶7] While this Court has yet to directly address whether a defendant's release from custody renders his sentencing appeal moot, we have addressed mootness in a similar context.

In *Rodriguez*, the petitioner appealed from a denial of his petition for writ of mandamus. 2014 ND 49, ¶ 1. During the pendency of the appeal, the petitioner became eligible for parole. *Id.* at ¶ 5. Because "our decision would be purely advisory" given the petitioner's recent eligibility for parole, we refused to "discuss the merits of the case because the issue is moot." *Id.* at ¶¶ 6–7. [¶8] Courts that have addressed this issue have concluded that defendants' sentencing appeals are moot if they have completed their prison terms and are released while their appeals are pending.

See *Owen v. United States*, 930 F.3d 989, 990–91 (8th Cir. 2019) (concluding defendant's appeal was moot where "he challenged only the term of imprisonment that has now expired"); *United States v. Solano-Hernandez*, 761 Fed. App'x 276, 280 (5th Cir. 2019) 2 (concluding defendant's appeal of his sentence was moot because defendant had completed his revocation sentence and was not sentenced to a term of supervised release relating to that sentence); *State v. Montgomery*, 286 P.3d 866, 871 (Kan.

2012) (concluding defendant’s appeal of his probation revocation sentence was moot because “the prison term that [petitioner] was ordered to serve has been completed”); *Casiano v. State*, 280 So. 3d 105, 106–07 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 2019) (concluding that a defendant’s appeal of his prison sentence was moot because he had served his sentence and had been released from prison).

When a defendant is released from prison after completing his sentence and is not subject to a term of supervised release or probation relating to that sentence, there are no collateral consequences from the defendant’s sentence. *Owen*, 930 F.3d at 990–91; *Solano-Hernandez*, 761 Fed. App’x at 280. [¶9] Oshiro’s release from prison during the pendency of this appeal makes it impossible for this Court to issue any sort of relief or remedy.

Oshiro has completed his concurrent revocation sentences. We cannot change credit for time served because the prison term Oshiro was ordered to serve has been completed. Further, the district court’s revocation sentence does not continue to have collateral consequences for Oshiro because his sentence did not include a term of supervised release or probation after he served his prison term.

Oshiro fully completed the terms of his revocation sentence, leaving no adverse consequence to suffer as a result of the revocation sentence. Therefore, similar to *Rodriguez*, this appeal presents a request for an advisory opinion because no actual controversy remains.

We conclude the appeal is moot. III [¶10] The appeal is dismissed. [¶11] Jon J. Jensen, C.J. Gerald W. VandeWalle Daniel J. Crothers Lisa Fair McEvers Jerod E. Tufte 3