

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

State ex rel. Steiner v. Rinfret

State ex rel. Steiner v. Rinfret, 2020 Ohio 1510 (Ohio 2020) · No. No. 2019-1387 · Decided April 21, 2020

SUMMARY

Mandamus; sentencing errors; adequate remedy at law. The Ohio Supreme Court held that a prisoner could not use a writ of mandamus to challenge his sentence because he had an adequate remedy through direct appeal. Sentencing errors generally may not be remedied through an extraordinary writ. The court affirmed dismissal of the mandamus petition.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Ohio
WRITING FOR THE COURT	O'Connor, C.J.; Kennedy; French; Fischer; DeWine; Donnelly; Stewart
JURISDICTION	Ohio
DECIDED	April 21, 2020
DOCKET	No. 2019-1387
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from dismissal of petition for writ of mandamus
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review of dismissal under Civ.R. 12(B)(6)
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published
PARTIES	Timothy Steiner v. Judge Robert D. Rinfret

TOPICS

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court of appeals erred in dismissing Steiner's mandamus petition because he had an adequate remedy at law through direct appeal.

HOLDINGS

1. Sentencing errors may not be remedied through an extraordinary writ because the defendant usually has an adequate remedy at law through direct appeal.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"As a general matter, sentencing errors may not be remedied through an extraordinary writ, because the defendant usually has or had" an adequate remedy at law through direct appeal." (§ 5)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Steiner, an inmate, was sentenced to nine years for attempted rape. He filed a mandamus petition arguing the judge should have sentenced him to 11 years. He had appealed directly his sentences, raising only the imposition of consecutive sentences, not the length of the attempted rape sentence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner filed mandamus in Fifth District Court of Appeals; court dismissed under Civ.R. 12(B)(6) for failure to state claim and lack of adequate remedy at law; relator appealed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- State ex rel. Brown v. Nusbaum, 152 Ohio St. 3d 284, 2017-Ohio-9141, 95 N.E.3d 365
- State ex rel. Zander v. Judge of Summit Cty. Common Pleas Court, 156 Ohio St. 3d 466, 2019-Ohio-1704, 129 N.E.3d 401
- State ex rel. Marsh v. Tibbals, 149 Ohio St. 3d 656, 2017-Ohio-829, 77 N.E.3d 909
- State v. Steiner, 5th Dist. Holmes No. 15CA17, 2016-Ohio-4648
- State ex rel. Cowell v. Croce, 157 Ohio St. 3d 103, 2019-Ohio-2844, 131 N.E.3d 934