

COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO, TENTH APPELLATE DISTRICT

State v. Todd

2025-Ohio-5483 (10th Dist. 2025) · No. 24AP-381 & 24AP-383 · Decided December 9, 2025

SUMMARY

The Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals affirmed the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas’ order journalizing Casey A. Todd’s classification as a sexual predator under Megan’s Law. The court held that Todd could not withdraw the sexual-predator stipulation included in his 1999 plea agreements, particularly because the original sentencing court had independently determined that he met the classification requirements. The court rejected Todd’s due-process and fundamental-fairness arguments.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals of Ohio, Tenth Appellate District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Edelstein, J.; Leland, J.; Dingus, J.
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Tenth Appellate District
DECIDED	December 9, 2025
DOCKET	24AP-381 & 24AP-383
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas judgment issuing a final appealable order journalizing his 1999 sexual-predator classification under Megan's Law and denying his request to withdraw the sexual-predator stipulation contained in his plea agreement.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A trial court's decision granting or denying a request to withdraw a stipulation is reviewed for abuse of discretion. The court also noted that sexual-predator classification findings are reviewed under the civil manifest-weight-of-the-evidence standard.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Casey A. Todd v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- plea bargaining
- due process
- appellate procedure
- standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

criminal procedure

constitutional law

sex-offender classification

plea agreements

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court abused its discretion by refusing to permit Todd to withdraw a sexual-predator stipulation entered as part of his 1999 negotiated plea agreements.
2. Whether the trial court retained authority, after Todd's release from prison, to issue a final appealable order journalizing the original sexual-predator classification under Megan's Law.
3. Whether due process and fundamental fairness required that Todd be permitted to withdraw the stipulation and avoid the lifetime registration requirements associated with the sexual-predator classification.

HOLDINGS

1. The trial court did not abuse its discretion in refusing to allow Todd to withdraw the sexual-predator stipulation because the stipulation was an integral term of the negotiated plea package, Todd had not sought to withdraw his guilty pleas, and he failed to show good cause for withdrawing only one component of the agreement.
2. The trial court properly issued a final appealable order imposing the civil and remedial sexual-predator classification based on Todd's stipulation and the original sentencing court's independent finding, even though Todd had already been released from prison.
3. Due process and fundamental fairness did not require permitting Todd to withdraw the stipulation or relieving him of the sexual-predator classification.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Permitting Mr. Todd to withdraw but one part of the negotiated plea agreement would run afoul of the precise nature of the package deal the parties agreed to in order to resolve both cases in 1999.” (§ 19)

“Therefore, we conclude the trial court properly issued an order imposing the civil and remedial sexual-predator classification based on Mr. Todd’s stipulation at the time of his plea and the original trial court’s independent review of the record.” (§ 22)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Todd was indicted in 1997 and 1998 for numerous sexually oriented felony offenses involving minors. In July 1999, he entered negotiated guilty pleas in two cases, and the plea agreements included a stipulation that he would be classified as a sexual predator under former R.C. 2950.09, requiring lifetime registration and notification. The sentencing court independently found him to be a sexual predator, but the finding was omitted from the judgment entries, and Todd was released from prison in 2007. In 2024, the trial court issued an order journalizing the classification after the State's motion, while Todd sought to withdraw the stipulation and be classified only as a sexually oriented offender.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Todd pleaded guilty in 1999 to sexually oriented offenses in two criminal cases. As part of negotiated plea agreements, the parties stipulated that he would be classified as a sexual predator, and the original sentencing court independently made that finding, but the finding was not included in the 1999 judgment entries. After a 2020 nunc pro tunc motion was denied and the denial was affirmed in *State v. Todd*, 2023-Ohio-4847, the State sought a final appealable order in 2024. The trial court granted that motion and journalized the classification; the Tenth District affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Gardner v. Das*, 2024-Ohio-2429, ¶ 20 (10th Dist.)
- *Beagle v. Beagle*, 2008-Ohio-764 (10th Dist.)
- *State v. Weaver*, 2022-Ohio-4371, ¶ 24
- *State v. Gondor*, 2006-Ohio-6679, ¶ 60
- *State v. Adams*, 62 Ohio St.2d 151, 157 (1980)
- *State v. Hackett*, 2020-Ohio-6699, ¶ 19
- *State ex rel. Grant v. Collins*, 2018-Ohio-4281, ¶ 6
- *State v. Blake-Taylor*, 2014-Ohio-3495, ¶ 4 (8th Dist.)
- *State v. Bowling*, 2015-Ohio-3123, ¶ 5 (10th Dist.)
- *State ex rel. Hunter v. Binette*, 2018-Ohio-2681, ¶ 16
- *State v. Wilson*, 2007-Ohio-2202, syllabus
- *State v. Ronan*, 2007-Ohio-168, ¶¶ 16-20 (10th Dist.)
- *State v. Bell*, 2016-Ohio-7363, ¶¶ 12-13 (12th Dist.)
- *State v. Todd*, 2023-Ohio-4847 (10th Dist.)
- *State v. Bodyke*, 2010-Ohio-2424, ¶ 26
- *State v. McGee*, 2018-Ohio-3171, ¶¶ 14-20 (8th Dist.)
- *State v. Thompson*, 2002-Ohio-6704, ¶¶ 24-29 (11th Dist.)
- *State v. Wheeler*, 2004-Ohio-4891, ¶¶ 13-17 (10th Dist.)
- *State v. Williams*, 2011-Ohio-3374
- *State v. Ferguson*, 2008-Ohio-4824
- *State v. Raber*, 2012-Ohio-5636