

SUPREME COURT OF NORTH DAKOTA

City of Grand Forks v. Scialdone

Scialdone, 2005 ND 24 (N.D. 2005) · No. 20040119 · Decided January 19, 2005

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of North Dakota affirmed Candace Scialdone’s criminal judgment for actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence. The court held that proof an Intoxilyzer 5000 was checked after being moved was not a foundational requirement for admitting the test results. It also held that the admission of documents faxed during trial and related rebuttal testimony did not violate discovery rules, particularly because Scialdone did not request a continuance or show prejudice.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of North Dakota
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Mary Muehlen Maring; William A. Neumann; Dale V. Sandstrom; Carol Ronning Kapsner; Gerald W. VandeWalle, C.J.
JURISDICTION	North Dakota
DECIDED	January 19, 2005
DOCKET	20040119
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Scialdone appealed a criminal judgment entered after a jury found her guilty of actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or with an alcohol concentration of at least ten one-hundredths of one percent by weight.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The admission of the challenged documents and testimony under N.D.R.Crim.P. 16 was reviewed for abuse of discretion. The court also applied the statutory and approved-method requirements governing admission of chemical-test results.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published precedential opinion of the Supreme Court of North Dakota
PARTIES	Candace Rae Scialdone v. City of Grand Forks

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- evidence
- appellate procedure
- suppression of evidence
- standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal procedure

evidence

appellate procedure

municipal law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether proof that an Intoxilyzer 5000 machine was checked or recalibrated after being moved was a foundational requirement for admission of the Intoxilyzer test results.
2. Whether the trial court violated N.D.R.Crim.P. 16 or abused its discretion by admitting documents faxed during trial and permitting a field inspector to testify as rebuttal evidence.
3. Whether the City violated N.D.R.Crim.P. 16 by providing foundational documentation on the day before trial.

HOLDINGS

1. Evidence that an Intoxilyzer 5000 machine was checked after being moved was not a foundational requirement for showing that the test was administered according to the State Toxicologist's approved method or for admitting the test result.
2. The trial court did not abuse its discretion by admitting the faxed documents or permitting the field inspector to testify because the evidence was offered as rebuttal evidence, Scialdone did not request a continuance, and she did not show an inability to meet the evidence.
3. The City did not violate N.D.R.Crim.P. 16 in a manner requiring reversal because Scialdone did not request a continuance and did not show prejudice from the timing of the disclosure.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“We conclude that evidence of such checks is not a foundational requirement for showing an Intoxilyzer 5000 test was administered in accordance with the approved method for conducting the test or for admission of the test result into evidence.” (¶ 7)

“If Scialdone felt surprised, her remedy was to request a continuance.” (¶ 9)

“The judgment is affirmed.” (¶ 14)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

After being arrested for actual physical control of a vehicle, Scialdone consented to an Intoxilyzer test. Before jury selection, the City provided defense counsel with Intoxilyzer records it intended to use at trial. During trial, defense counsel challenged the foundation for the test results based on a student-manual statement that calibration checks must be completed whenever an Intoxilyzer machine is moved from one location to another. During a recess, the City obtained and faxed documents showing that the machine had been installed and checked by a field inspector in Grand Forks after being moved from Bismarck, and the inspector testified as rebuttal evidence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The City prosecuted Scialdone in municipal court, and a jury returned a guilty verdict. During trial, the court admitted Intoxilyzer test results, documents faxed during a recess, and rebuttal testimony from a field inspector over Scialdone's objections. The criminal judgment was entered, and Scialdone appealed; the North Dakota Supreme Court affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Lee v. North Dakota Department of Transportation, 2004 ND 7, ¶ 10, 673 N.W.2d 245
- Ringsaker v. Director, North Dakota Department of Transportation, 1999 ND 127, ¶ 7, 596 N.W.2d 328
- Johnson v. North Dakota Department of Transportation, 2004 ND 59, ¶ 12, 676 N.W.2d 807
- City of Bismarck v. Bosch, 2005 ND 12, ¶ 11
- Kiecker v. North Dakota Department of Transportation, 2005 ND 23, ¶ 13
- United States v. Gleason, 616 F.2d 2, 25 (2d Cir. 1979)
- State v. Erickson, 517 N.W.2d 646, 648-49 (N.D. 1994)
- State v. Hirschhorn, 2002 ND 36, ¶ 9, 640 N.W.2d 439
- United States v. Gonzalez-Rincon, 36 F.3d 859, 865 (9th Cir. 1994)
- United States v. Delia, 944 F.2d 1010, 1017-18 (2d Cir. 1991)
- City of Grand Forks v. Ramstad, 2003 ND 41, 658 N.W.2d 731

OPINION

MARING, J.

2005 ND 24 City of Grand Forks, Plaintiff and Appellee, v. Candace Rae Scialdone, Defendant and Appellant. No. 20040119 Supreme Court of North Dakota. Filed January 19, 2005 Kristen Sue Pettit, Assistant City Prosecutor, P.O. Box 5299, Grand Forks, N.D. 58206-5299, for plaintiff and appellee. Alexander F. Reichert (argued), and Kelly M. Armstrong (on brief), Reichert Law Office, 405 Bruce Avenue, Suite 100A, Grand Forks, N.D.

58201, for defendant and appellant. Opinion of the Court by Maring, Justice. Maring, Justice. [¶1] Candace Scialdone appealed a criminal judgment entered upon a jury verdict finding her guilty of actual physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or with an alcohol concentration of at least ten one-hundredths of one percent by weight.

We affirm. I [¶2] After her arrest for being in actual physical control of a vehicle, Scialdone consented to an Intoxilyzer test. Scialdone requested any material and information subject to disclosure under N.D.R.Crim.P. 16.

On March 23, 2004, before jury selection that day, the City of Grand Forks ("City") provided Scialdone's attorney with copies of Intoxilyzer records it intended to introduce at trial the next day. At trial, Scialdone's attorney objected to introduction of the Intoxilyzer test results on the ground that the "list of certified testing devices is going to show the machine that was used in this case was actually certified... in Bismarck.

Not in Grand Forks," and "[t]he intoxilyzer training manual says any time the intoxilyzer is moved it has to be recalibrated by a field inspector." The court overruled the objection. [¶3] At trial, Officer Dvorak testified that, according to Exhibit 4, a list of approved chemical testing devices, the machine used in this case was "tested in Bismarck" and the exhibit did not indicate "that machine was recertified by a field inspector after it was moved from Bismarck to Grand Forks."

During a recess, the City had faxed from the State Toxicologist's Office several pages of documents, including an exhibit showing the Intoxilyzer machine used in the case had been installed and checked by a field inspector in Grand Forks after it had been moved from Bismarck to Grand Forks.

The court overruled Scialdone's objections to the exhibit or to testimony by a field inspector, Officer Nelson, who testified she had checked the machine after it had been moved from Bismarck to Grand Forks. [¶4] The jury returned a verdict finding Scialdone guilty, and a criminal judgment was entered. Scialdone appealed, raising the following issues: I. The Intoxilyzer test results should have been excluded from evidence because the foundational requirements showing that the test was administered in accordance with the approved method were not met.

II. Foundational documentation faxed to the prosecutor during trial and surprise witness testimony cannot be admitted into evidence because it is a violation of N.D.R.Crim.P. 16 and Scialdone did not have adequate time to prepare for that evidence or for a cross-examination of the witness. III.

The City violated N.D.R.Crim.P. 16 by not providing documentation pursuant to Scialdone's reasonable discovery request until the day before trial. II [¶5] Scialdone asserts that the evidence initially presented by the City "indicated that this machine was last calibrated in Bismarck" and "[t]he evidence presented by the City through exhibits and the testimony of Officer Dvorak did not support the assertion that the approved method for conducting the breath test had been followed."

Scialdone contends the Intoxilyzer test results should have been excluded because the City did not meet the foundational requirements necessary to show the test was administered in accordance with the approved method.

For that assertion, Scialdone relies on two sentences contained on page 56 of a 244-page student manual: Checks on the calibration must be completed each time the Intoxilyzer 5000 is moved. This is done even when the Intoxilyzer 5000 is moved within an office. Office of Attorney General, Chemical Test Training School for Intoxilyzer 5000 Student Manual 56 (Fall 2003 and

Spring 2004 Training Sessions). [¶6] Under N.D.C.C. § 39-20-07(5), the results of a chemical analysis must be received in evidence if the sample was properly obtained, the test was fairly administered, and "the test is shown to have been performed according to methods and with devices approved by the state toxicologist." "The purpose of section 39-20-07 is to ease the requirements for the admissibility of chemical test results while ensuring that the test upon which the results are based is fairly administered." *Lee v. North Dakota Dep't of Transp.*, 2004 ND 7, ¶ 10, 673 N.W.2d 245 (quoting *Ringsaker v. Director*, N.D.

Dep't of Transp., 1999 ND 127, ¶ 7, 596 N.W.2d 328). "Whether an Intoxilyzer test has been properly administered can be determined by proving that the method approved by the State Toxicologist has been scrupulously followed." *Johnson v. North Dakota Dep't of Transp.*, 2004 ND 59, ¶ 12, 676 N.W.2d 807. [¶7] The first sentence of a June 15, 2003, document entitled "APPROVED METHOD TO CONDUCT BREATH TESTS WITH THE INTOXILYZER 5000 KB-EP" in an exhibit at trial states: "The Approved Method to Conduct Breath Tests With the Intoxilyzer 5000 KB-EP constitutes following the procedure outlined in this document and the instructions displayed by the Intoxilyzer."

The last sentence of the document states: "When the test is conducted according to this method, it is considered as fairly administered and the result obtained is scientifically accepted as accurate." Neither N.D.C.C. § 39-20-07(5) nor the approved method promulgated by the State Toxicologist mentions either the student manual or anything about completing checks on the calibration when an Intoxilyzer 5000 machine is moved.

We conclude that evidence of such checks is not a foundational requirement for showing an Intoxilyzer 5000 test was administered in accordance with the approved method for conducting the test or for admission of the test result into evidence. See also *City of Bismarck v. Bosch*, 2005 ND 12, ¶ 11 (concluding analytical report and directive "that a standard solution may be used for up to 50 tests is not a part of the approved method" and proof of the number of tests is not a prerequisite to showing fair administration of the test or to admission of the test results); *Kiecker v. North Dakota Dep't of Transp.*, 2005 ND 23, ¶ 13 (holding recalibration of Intoxilyzer machines is not part of the method prescribed by the State Toxicologist and proof of recalibration is not a foundational requirement for admission of an Intoxilyzer test result into evidence).

III [¶8] Upon written request, N.D.R.Crim.P. 16(a)(1)(C), (D) require the prosecuting attorney to disclose evidence within the possession, custody, or control of the prosecution "material to the preparation of the" defense or "intended for use by the prosecutor as evidence in chief at the trial." Scialdone contends the faxed documents about checks performed on the machine used after it had been moved from Bismarck to Grand Forks should not have been admitted because it violated N.D.R.Crim.P.

16 and she did not have time to prepare for that evidence or for cross-examination of the field inspector. While "Scialdone does not contend that the testimony of Officer Nelson was intentionally withheld" and recognized in her appellate brief that "[t]he City did not know until trial that Officer Nelson's testimony was needed," she asserts the faxed documents "were to be used to correct the City's own foundational flaw and to rehabilitate the testimony of their impeached witness."

Scialdone argues "the City should have been aware of these foundational problems before trial. Therefore, any testimony they planned to offer regarding the calibration of the Intoxilyzer machine used on Scialdone should have been previously disclosed." [¶9] We have already concluded evidence the machine had been checked after being moved is not a foundational requirement for the admission into evidence of an Intoxilyzer 5000 test result.

The challenged documents and testimony were offered as rebuttal evidence. "The Government is not obligated by Rule 16(a) to anticipate every possible defense." *United States v. Gleason*, 616 F.2d 2, 25 (2nd Cir. 1979).

We have held that, if a defendant rebuts the prosecution's prima facie showing of fair administration of a blood-alcohol test for admission under N.D.C.C. § 39-20-07(5), "the prosecution may present testimony to show fair administration despite defendant's rebuttal." *State v. Erickson*, 517 N.W.2d 646, 648-49 (N.D. 1994). If Scialdone felt surprised, her remedy was to request a continuance.

State v. Hirschhorn, 2002 ND 36, ¶ 9, 640 N.W.2d 439. "A judgment will not ordinarily be reversed on appeal for surprise when no request is made for a continuance at the time and there is no showing of inability to meet the situation." *Id.* Scialdone did not request a continuance and did not show at trial or on appeal an inability to meet the situation. [¶10] Furthermore, Scialdone has not shown that N.D.R.Crim.P.

16 requires advance disclosure of rebuttal evidence. We note that federal courts construing F.R.Crim.P. 16 have held that the rule does not apply to rebuttal evidence. See *United States v. Gonzalez-Rincon*, 36 F.3d 859, 865 (9th Cir. 1994) (impeaching evidence is not a relevant statement within the meaning of F.R.Crim.P. 16); *United States v. Delia*, 944 F.2d 1010, 1017-18 (2nd Cir.

1991) (F.R.Crim.P. 16(a) does not cover rebuttal evidence). [¶11] We conclude Scialdone has not shown that the trial court abused its discretion in allowing the faxed documents to be admitted into evidence or in allowing Officer Nelson, a field inspector, to testify that she had checked the machine after it was moved from Bismarck to Grand Forks. IV [¶12] Scialdone contends "[t]he City violated N.D.R.Crim.P.

16 by not providing documentation pursuant to Scialdone's reasonable discovery request until the day before trial." Scialdone complains of two sets of documents, the first being foundational evidence for admissibility of the Intoxilyzer test results, and the second being documents faxed during a trial recess. [¶13] If Scialdone was surprised by the foundational evidence provided to her before trial, her remedy was to move for a continuance.

See Hirsch Korn, 2002 ND 36, ¶ 9, 640 N.W.2d 439. Scialdone's reliance on *City of Grand Forks v. Ramstad*, 2003 ND 41, 658 N.W.2d 731, is misplaced, as she, unlike the defendant in *Ramstad*, did not seek a continuance to examine documents provided on the day of jury selection the day before trial.

We have already addressed the faxed documents and Officer Nelson's testimony and found no abuse of discretion. Furthermore, Scialdone has not shown that she was prejudiced by the timing of the documents' provision, and we conclude the trial court did not abuse its discretion in admitting the evidence. See *Ramstad*, at ¶¶ 25-27. V [¶14] The judgment is affirmed. [¶15] Mary Muehlen Maring William A. Neumann Dale V. Sandstrom Carol Ronning Kapsner Gerald W. VandeWalle, C.J.