

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

United States v. Reynolds

No. 20-11256, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (April 13, 2021)

SUMMARY

Appeal of pretrial detention order dismissed as moot where defendant subsequently pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for criminal contempt under 18 U.S.C. § 401. Because the appeal only challenged the detention order, the conviction and sentence left no relief the court could grant. The Fifth Circuit applied the mootness doctrine from **United States v. Ramirez** and **United States v. O'Shaughnessy**.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Davis; Stewart; Dennis
JURISDICTION	Federal
DECIDED	April 13, 2021
DOCKET	20-11256
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from pretrial detention order
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished
PARTIES	Larry Reynolds v. United States of America

TOPICS

- mootness
- criminal procedure
- bail
- appellate jurisdiction

PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal Law
- Appellate Procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the appeal of the pretrial detention order is moot after the defendant's subsequent conviction and sentencing.

HOLDINGS

1. The appeal is moot because the court can no longer grant any relief.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Because Reynolds’ pending appeal only seeks review of his pretrial detention, his subsequent conviction and sentencing has rendered this appeal moot as there is no longer any relief that this court can grant.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Larry Reynolds was charged with criminal contempt of court under 18 U.S.C. § 401 for conduct in bankruptcy proceedings involving a company he owned and managed. The district court ordered his detention pending trial. Reynolds appealed that detention order.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Reynolds was charged with criminal contempt in bankruptcy proceedings. He was detained pending trial. He appealed that detention order. Subsequently, he pled guilty and was sentenced, making the appeal of the detention order moot.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- United States v. Ramirez, 145 F.3d 345, 356 (5th Cir. 1998)
- United States v. O'Shaughnessy, 772 F.2d 112, 113 (5th Cir. 1985)