

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Charles v. State

No. 370, 2025 · No. No. 370, 2025 · Decided April 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The Delaware Supreme Court affirmed the Superior Court’s denial of Harry Charles’s motion for postconviction relief. The court held that the motion was procedurally barred as untimely under Superior Court Criminal Rule 61 and failed to satisfy the rule’s pleading requirements.

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE HARRY CHARLES, § § No. 370, 2025 Defendant Below, § Appellant, § Court Below–Superior Court § of the State of Delaware v. § § Cr. ID No. 2006000287A (K) STATE OF DELAWARE, § § Appellee. § Submitted: February 3, 2026 Decided: April 6, 2026 Before SEITZ, Chief Justice; LEGROW and GRIFFITHS, Justices. ORDER After consideration of the appellant’s opening brief, the State’s motion to affirm, and the record on appeal, we affirm the Superior Court’s denial of the appellant’s motion for postconviction relief.

On September 27, 2021, the appellant, Harry Charles, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, and second-degree conspiracy. On December 15, 2021, the Superior Court sentenced Charles to an aggregate of twenty-five years of incarceration followed by decreasing levels of community supervision. Charles did not appeal his convictions or sentence and, accordingly, his convictions became final thirty days thereafter.¹ On August 1, 2024—more than three years and six 1 Del.

Super. Ct. Crim. R. 61(m)(1)(i). months after his convictions became final—Charles filed a motion for postconviction relief under Superior Court Criminal Rule 61, raising claims of ineffective assistance of counsel.

The Superior Court did not abuse its discretion when it denied the motion for postconviction relief: it was procedurally barred as untimely filed² and did not satisfy the pleading requirements of Rule 61(i)(5). NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the State’s motion to affirm is GRANTED and the judgment of the Superior Court is AFFIRMED. BY THE COURT: /s/ N. Christopher Griffiths Justice 2 Del.

Super. Ct. Crim. R. 61(i)(1) (providing in part that “[a] motion for postconviction relief may not be filed more than one year after the judgment of conviction is final”). 2

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/supreme-court-of-the-state-of-delaware-supreme-court-of-the-state-of-delaware/2026/charles-v-state-ilvInglc>