

SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

Thurmond v. State

2014 Ark. 321 (2014) · No. CR-13-28 · Decided July 31, 2014

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Arkansas affirmed the denial of Sam Edward Thurmond, Sr.’s petition to correct an illegal sentence. The court held that his claim—that incarceration under an administrative Act 570 sanction followed by probation revocation violated double jeopardy—did not establish multiple criminal punishments because probation revocation is not a stage of a criminal prosecution. The court also addressed the adequacy of the appellate record and took judicial notice of the record from related postconviction proceedings.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Arkansas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam
JURISDICTION	Arkansas
DECIDED	July 31, 2014
DOCKET	CR-13-28
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from the denial of a petition to correct an illegal sentence imposed after revocation of probation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Arkansas Supreme Court opinion; precedential
PARTIES	Sam Edward Thurmond, Sr. v. State of Arkansas

TOPICS

- double jeopardy
- probation
- post-conviction relief
- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- post-conviction relief
- probation
- constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the probation-revocation proceedings imposed a criminal punishment such that the additional sentence, following the Act 570 administrative detention, violated the Double Jeopardy Clause.

2. Whether Thurmond stated a meritorious claim for correction of an illegal sentence.

HOLDINGS

1. Probation revocation is not a stage of a criminal prosecution and does not impose a criminal punishment that can place a probationer in jeopardy a second time for the conduct underlying the violation.
2. Thurmond failed to allege a meritorious claim that his sentence was illegal, so the denial of his petition to correct an illegal sentence was affirmed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“This court has held that revocation of probation is not a stage of a criminal prosecution.” (at 3)

“Our precedent is clear that no criminal punishment was imposed during the revocation proceedings.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Thurmond entered a negotiated guilty plea to theft of property and was sentenced to county jail time and probation. His probation officer issued an Act 570 Jail Letter imposing seven days of county-jail incarceration as an immediate administrative sanction for a probation violation. Thurmond later stipulated to violating probation, and the circuit court revoked probation and imposed an additional 360 days in jail and additional probation. He argued that both the Jail Letter detention and the revocation sentence punished the same conduct.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Thurmond pleaded guilty to theft of property and received 120 days in county jail and 60 months' probation. After he stipulated to violating probation, the circuit court revoked probation and imposed 360 additional days in county jail and additional probation. The court denied his Arkansas Rule of Criminal Procedure 37.1 petition, and the Supreme Court dismissed his appeal from that order. Thurmond then filed a petition to correct an illegal sentence, arguing that the revocation sanction and an earlier seven-day administrative detention constituted successive punishments barred by double jeopardy. The circuit court denied relief, and the Supreme Court affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Thurmond v. State, 2014 Ark. 176 (per curiam)
- Davis v. State, 2013 Ark. 118 (per curiam)
- Rice v. State, 2013 Ark. 167 (per curiam)
- Low v. State, 2012 Ark. 185, 423 S.W.3d 6 (per curiam)
- Ferrell v. State, 2014 Ark. 242 (per curiam)
- Hudson v. United States, 522 U.S. 93 (1997)

- United States v. Comstock, 560 U.S. 126 (2010)
- United States v. Dinitz, 424 U.S. 600 (1976)
- Pyron v. State, 330 Ark. 88, 953 S.W.2d 874 (1997)
- Lee v. State, 2010 Ark. 261 (per curiam)
- Pyland v. State, 302 Ark. 444, 790 S.W.2d 178 (1990)
- Gagnon v. Scarpelli, 411 U.S. 778 (1973)
- Murphy v. State, 2013 Ark. 155 (per curiam)
- Rickenbacker v. Norris, 361 Ark. 291, 206 S.W.3d 220 (2005) (per curiam)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Cite as 2014 Ark. 321 SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS No. CR-13-28 SAM EDWARD THURMOND, SR. Opinion Delivered July 31, 2014 APPELLANT PRO SE APPEAL FROM THE V. FAULKNER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT [NO. 23CR-11-318] STATE OF ARKANSAS APPELLEE HONORABLE CHARLES E. CLAWSON, JR., JUDGE AFFIRMED. PER CURIAM Appellant Sam Edward Thurmond, Sr., entered a negotiated plea of guilty to a charge of theft of property in the Faulkner County Circuit Court and received a sentence of 120 days' imprisonment in the county jail and 60 months' probation.

Appellant filed in the trial court a timely petition for postconviction relief under Arkansas Rule of Criminal Procedure 37.1 (2013). The trial court held a hearing on May 21, 2012, addressing both the Rule 37.1 petition and a petition for probation revocation filed by the State on May 2, 2012. At the hearing, appellant stipulated that he had violated the terms of his probation.

In an order filed on May 21, 2012, the trial court revoked appellant's probation, imposing 360 additional days in the county jail and additional probation time. It also denied the Rule 37.1 petition in an order entered June 1, 2012, and this court dismissed appellant's appeal of that order. *Thurmond v. State*, 2014 Ark. 176 (per curiam).

On June 18, 2012, appellant filed a petition to correct an illegal sentence in which he Cite as 2014 Ark. 321 alleged that his sentence on revocation was imposed in an illegal manner. Appellant appeals the order denying that petition.

We hold that appellant failed to allege a meritorious claim in the petition and affirm the order denying relief. We first note that the State asserts that appellant failed to provide an adequate record on appeal. However, we also note that the majority of the items that the State contends are missing are contained in the record from appellant's Rule 37.1 proceedings.

This court may take judicial notice of the record in that case, without need to supplement. See *Davis v. State*, 2013 Ark. 118 (per curiam); see also *Rice v. State*, 2013 Ark. 167 (per curiam);

Low v. State, 2012 Ark. 185, 423 S.W.3d 6 (per curiam).

The plea agreement for the revocation is not included in either record, but, as discussed below, it is not pertinent to our resolution of the single issue appellant raises on appeal.¹ As he did in his petition to correct an illegal sentence, appellant alleges on appeal that adjudication of the State's petition to revoke was barred by the prohibition against double jeopardy because he had already been incarcerated under an Act 570 Jail Letter signed by his probation officer.

The trial court found that the sanction under Act 570 was administrative, that it was intended to supplement the revocation proceedings, and that appellant's argument that there was a double-jeopardy violation was without merit. Act 570 of the 2011 Acts of Arkansas authorizes the Department of Community Correction to sanction probationers administratively for probation violations without utilizing 1 Appellant raised an issue during the proceedings in the trial court that alleged that the statutes cited in the warrant for arrest had been repealed.

Appellant does not contest the court's ruling on that issue, and the argument is therefore abandoned. See Ferrell v. State, 2014 Ark. 242 (per curiam). ² Cite as 2014 Ark. 321 the revocation process under Arkansas Code Annotated section 16-93-307. Ark. Code Ann. § 16-93-306(d)(1) (Supp. 2013).

The Jail Letter in this case imposed one of the listed possible immediate sanctions under section 16-93-306(d)(3), subjecting appellant to incarceration in the county jail for seven days. Appellant contends that his incarceration under authority of the Jail Letter and the sentence that was imposed following the revocation proceedings were both punishments for the same conduct.

He argues that a double-jeopardy violation therefore occurred when the second punishment was imposed. Only criminal proceedings invoke double-jeopardy issues. Hudson v. United States, 522 U.S. 93 (1997) (recognizing that the Double Jeopardy Clause does not prohibit the imposition of all additional sanctions that could in common parlance be described as punishment); see also United States v. Comstock, 560 U.S. 126 (2010); United States v. Dinitz, 424 U.S. 600 (1976) (noting that the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment protects a defendant in a criminal proceeding against multiple punishments or repeated prosecutions for the same offense).

Remedial civil sanctions, as opposed to criminal penalties, do not invoke double jeopardy. See Pyron v. State, 330 Ark. 88, 953 S.W.2d 874 (1997). This court has held that revocation of probation is not a stage of a criminal prosecution. Lee v. State, 2010 Ark. 261 (per curiam) (citing Pyland v. State, 302 Ark. 444, 790 S.W.2d 178 (1990), in turn citing Gagnon v. Scarpelli, 411 U.S. 778 (1973)).

Revocation proceedings do not raise a risk of the deprivation of an absolute liberty so as to invoke double-jeopardy concerns. See Scarpelli, 411 U.S. 778; see also Murphy v. State, 2013 Ark. 155 (per curiam) (citing Rickenbacker v. Norris, 361 Ark. 291, 206 S.W.3d 220 (2005) (per curiam) (

holding that appellant's revocation 3 Cite as 2014 Ark. 321 proceedings did not impose a sentence for purposes of raising a double-jeopardy violation)).

We need not consider appellant's claim concerning whether the detention imposed under section 16-93-306 was, despite the legislature's designation of it as an administrative sanction, a criminal punishment. Our precedent is clear that no criminal punishment was imposed during the revocation proceedings. Appellant therefore failed to allege an adequate basis for multiple criminal punishments in violation of the prohibition against double jeopardy because he did not demonstrate that the revocation proceedings could have imposed a punishment that might place appellant in jeopardy a second time for the conduct alleged to violate his probation conditions.

Appellant has not demonstrated error in the trial court's denial of relief under the statute. Affirmed. Sam Edward Thurmond, Sr., pro se appellant. Dustin McDaniel, Att'y Gen., by: Valerie Glover Fortner, Ass't Att'y Gen., for appellee. 4