

SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

State of Iowa v. Chad Albert Godfrey

Godfrey · No. No. 07-1813 · Decided December 11, 2009

SUMMARY

The Iowa Supreme Court reviewed whether Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.5(3) required the State to disclose witnesses’ home addresses in the minutes of testimony. The court held that newly adopted Rule 2.11(12), governing disclosure of witness addresses, applied retrospectively because it was procedural rather than substantive. The court vacated the court of appeals decision, reversed the district court order, and remanded for consideration under the amended rule.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Iowa
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam
JURISDICTION	Iowa
DECIDED	December 11, 2009
DOCKET	No. 07-1813
DISPOSITION	reversed_and_remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The State sought further review of the Iowa Court of Appeals' decision affirming a district court order compelling disclosure of witnesses' home addresses in minutes of testimony.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the interpretation and application of the Iowa Rules of Criminal Procedure on further review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	State of Iowa v. Chad Albert Godfrey

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- statutory interpretation

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- statutory and rule interpretation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.5(3) required the State to include each witness's home address in the minutes of testimony.
2. Whether newly adopted Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.11(12), governing disclosure of witness addresses in minutes of testimony, applied retrospectively to resolve the pending dispute.

HOLDINGS

1. Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.11(12), because it governs procedure rather than the substantive elements of the charged crimes, applies retrospectively to the pending dispute.
2. The court of appeals decision was vacated and the district court order requiring disclosure of witnesses' home addresses was reversed; the matter was remanded for the district court to consider the motion to compel under Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.11(12), as amended.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The State charged Chad Godfrey by trial information with multiple crimes and filed minutes of testimony for numerous witnesses. The minutes listed the home address of only one witness. Godfrey moved to compel the State to provide the home address of every witness, while the State argued that the rule required only the witness's city, county, or state.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Iowa district court interpreted Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.5(3) to require the State to provide each witness's home address in the minutes of testimony. The court of appeals affirmed. The Iowa Supreme Court granted further review and, after adopting Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.11(12), vacated the court of appeals decision, reversed the district court order, and remanded for consideration under the amended rule.

DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The district court must consider Godfrey's motion to compel under Iowa Rule of Criminal Procedure 2.11(12), as amended.

CASES CITED

- State v. Reyes, 744 N.W.2d 95, 99 (Iowa 2008)
- State ex rel. Leas in re O'Neal, 303 N.W.2d 414, 419-20 (Iowa 1981)