

OHIO COURT OF APPEALS, SEVENTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, MAHONING COUNTY

State v. Smith

2026-Ohio-2147 · No. 25 MA 0110 · Decided June 5, 2026

SUMMARY

The Seventh District Court of Appeals of Ohio denied Sammie Smith, Jr.’s application for reconsideration under Ohio Appellate Rule 26(A). The court held that the application was untimely, that Smith had not established extraordinary circumstances, and that he had not identified an obvious error or overlooked issue in the court’s prior decision affirming dismissal of his untimely post-conviction petition. The prior petition concerned alleged Brady violations and access to a laboratory standard operating procedure file.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Ohio Court of Appeals, Seventh Appellate District, Mahoning County
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Katelyn Dickey; Cheryl L. Waite; Mark A. Hanni
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Seventh Appellate District, Mahoning County
DECIDED	June 5, 2026
DOCKET	25 MA 0110
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant-Appellant sought reconsideration under Ohio Appellate Rule 26(A) of the court's prior decision affirming dismissal without a hearing of his untimely third petition for postconviction relief. The application was denied.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under App.R. 26(A), reconsideration is appropriate when the application identifies an obvious error in the appellate decision or raises an issue that was not considered, or was not fully considered, when it should have been. A delayed application requires extraordinary circumstances under App.R. 14(B).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published
PARTIES	Sammie Smith, Jr. v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

appellate procedure

state post-conviction relief

post-conviction relief

criminal procedure

evidence

PRACTICE AREAS

appellate procedure

criminal procedure

post-conviction relief

evidence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Smith's delayed application for reconsideration should be accepted because extraordinary circumstances excused his failure to comply with App.R. 26(A)(1)(a)'s ten-day filing deadline.
2. Whether Smith demonstrated an obvious error, an overlooked issue, or an unsupportable legal decision warranting reconsideration under App.R. 26(A).

HOLDINGS

1. A delayed application for reconsideration under App.R. 26(A) may proceed only when the moving party establishes extraordinary circumstances excusing the untimely filing; Smith failed to establish extraordinary circumstances for filing four days late.
2. Reconsideration is not warranted merely because a party disagrees with the appellate court's reasoning or conclusions; the applicant must identify an obvious error or an issue that was not adequately considered, and Smith made no such showing.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The test generally applied is whether the motion for reconsideration calls to the attention of the court an obvious error in its decision or raises an issue for our consideration that was either not at all or was not fully considered by us when it should have been.” (¶ 5)

“App.R. 26(A) is meant to provide a mechanism by which a party may prevent a miscarriage of justice that could arise when an appellate court makes an obvious error or renders a decision that is not supported by the law.” (¶ 9)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Smith filed a pro se application for reconsideration on May 12, 2026, challenging the Seventh District's April 28, 2026 decision affirming dismissal of his third postconviction petition. The application was due May 8, 2026, because the court clerk mailed the judgment and recorded the deliveries on April 28. Smith argued that the prior decision improperly rejected claims concerning alleged Brady violations and a laboratory standard operating procedure file, but the court found that the file had been made available for inspection before trial and that Smith showed neither extraordinary circumstances nor an obvious legal error.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas dismissed without a hearing Smith's untimely third pro se postconviction petition, styled as a motion for leave to file a motion for a new trial. In a prior appeal, the Seventh District affirmed, concluding that the petition was untimely, no statutory exception was shown, the claims were

barred by res judicata, and the petition lacked substantive grounds. Smith filed an application for reconsideration four days beyond the ten-day deadline, and the appellate court denied it.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- State v. Smith, 2026-Ohio-1531 (7th Dist.)
- Matthews v. Matthews, 5 Ohio App.3d 140, 143, 450 N.E.2d 278 (10th Dist. 1981)
- State v. Owens, 112 Ohio App.3d 334, 336, 678 N.E.2d 956 (11th Dist. 1996)
- D.G. v. M.G.G., 2019-Ohio-1190, ¶ 2 (7th Dist.)
- Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963)
- State v. Perry, 10 Ohio St.2d 175, 180-181 (1967)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

[Cite as State v. Smith, 2026-Ohio-2147.] IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO SEVENTH APPELLATE DISTRICT MAHONING COUNTY STATE OF OHIO, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. SAMMIE SMITH, JR., Defendant-Appellant. OPINION AND JUDGMENT ENTRY Case No. 25 MA 0110 Application for Reconsideration BEFORE: Katelyn Dickey, Cheryl L. Waite, Mark A. Hanni, Judges. JUDGMENT: Denied. Atty.

Nils Peter Johnson, Special Prosecuting Attorney, for Plaintiff-Appellee and Sammie Smith, Jr., Defendant-Appellant. Dated: June 5, 2026 –2– PER CURIAM. {¶1} On May 12, 2026, pro se Appellant, Sammie Smith, Jr., filed an application requesting that this court reconsider our decision in State v. Smith, 2026-Ohio-1531 (7th Dist.), in which we affirmed the November 5, 2025 judgment of the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas dismissing without a hearing his untimely third pro se petition for postconviction relief, captioned “Motion for leave to file a motion for a new trial pursuant to C.R.

33B,” which cited to and relied on R.C. 2953.21, “Petition for postconviction relief; discovery.” {¶2} In that appeal, Appellant raised three assignments of error: (1) the trial court erred in mischaracterizing his motion for a new trial as a petition for postconviction relief; (2) the court erred in dismissing his motion because he believes the record reveals Appellee, the State of Ohio, withheld evidence; and (3) the court erred in dismissing his motion as untimely.

Smith at ¶ 1, 5. This court held because Appellant’s third pro se petition was untimely filed, no exception entitling him to relief was demonstrated, his claims are barred by principles of res judicata, and there are additionally no substantive, supporting grounds, the trial court did not abuse

its discretion in reviewing his motion as a petition for postconviction relief and dismissing it without a hearing.

Id. at ¶ 1, 18. {¶3} Appellant contends this court's decision was in error and that we should, therefore, reconsider the opinion pursuant to App.R. 26(A). The State filed a response on May 20, 2026. {¶4} An application for reconsideration must be filed within ten days of an appellate court's judgment. App.R. 26(A)(1)(a).

However, a delayed application for reconsideration pursuant to App.R. 26(A) is permitted if the moving party can establish "extraordinary circumstances." App.R. 14(B). "Extraordinary circumstances" is defined as "[a] highly unusual set of facts that are not commonly associated with a particular thing or event." Black's Law Dictionary (12th Ed. 2024). {¶5} This court decided Appellant's appeal and filed our judgment on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Smith, 2026-Ohio-1531 (7th Dist.). The clerk mailed copies of the judgment via regular U.S. mail to the prosecutor and Appellant that same date and a certified copy was placed in the trial court judge's box. The clerk also made a note on the docket of the deliveries that same date.

Thus, Appellant's application for reconsideration Case No. 25 MA 0110 –3– was to be filed no later than Friday, May 8, 2026. However, Appellant did not file his application for reconsideration until Tuesday, May 12, 2026, four days beyond the ten- day timeframe under App.R. 26(A)(1)(a). Appellant fails to establish "extraordinary circumstances." In addition, we find no obvious error in this court's decision.

App.R. 26, which provides for the filing of an application for reconsideration in this court, includes no guidelines to be used in the determination of whether a decision is to be reconsidered and changed. *Matthews v. Matthews*, 5 Ohio App.3d 140, 143, 450 N.E.2d 278 (10th Dist. 1981).

The test generally applied is whether the motion for reconsideration calls to the attention of the court an obvious error in its decision or raises an issue for our consideration that was either not at all or was not fully considered by us when it should have been. Id. An application for reconsideration is not designed for use in instances where a party simply disagrees with the conclusions reached and the logic used by an appellate court.

State v. Owens, 112 Ohio App.3d 334, 336, 678 N.E.2d 956 (11th Dist. 1996). Rather, App.R. 26 provides a mechanism by which a party may prevent miscarriages of justice that could arise when an appellate court makes an obvious error or renders an unsupportable decision under the law. Id. *D.G. v. M.G.G.*, 2019-Ohio-1190, ¶ 2 (7th Dist.). {¶6} In his pro se application, Appellant disagrees with this court's analysis and requests that we reconsider our decision.

It appears Appellant takes issue with discovery violations involving *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963). {¶7} In *Smith*, we addressed Appellant's discovery violations involving *Brady* in detail

as follows: Appellant's third pro se petition for postconviction relief identifies the standard operation procedure file of the laboratory (the "SOP File") as the critical fact withheld from him that, if delivered and relied upon, would provide him with an avenue for postconviction relief under R.C.

Case No. 25 MA 0110 –4– 2953.23(A)(1)(a). Appellant notes that the SOP File was not delivered to him upon request. However, Appellant included as an exhibit with his filing a "Supplemental Discovery" notice filed by the State on May 27, 2010, indicating the "Laboratory Protocol" was "available (to him) at any time for (his) inspection, copying, viewing, etc." (5/27/2010 "Supplemental Discovery").

Appellant's petition and accompanying affidavit do not explain what efforts he or his counsel made to actually inspect, copy, or view the SOP File prior to trial or otherwise indicate how he was unavoidably prevented from learning its contents between the time he became aware of its availability for inspection (May 27, 2010) and the commencement of trial (January 4, 2011).

Appellant also does not establish by clear and convincing evidence that, but for a constitutional error at trial, no reasonable factfinder would have found him guilty of the offenses of which he was convicted. See R.C. 2953.23(A)(1)(b). Appellant's argument in his third pro se petition for postconviction relief appears to be based on two premises: (1) the State's failure to disclose the SOP File violates Brady; and (2) if the SOP File were disclosed, it would have revealed processes that could have been used in a Daubert hearing as the basis for excluding expert testimony concerning DNA evidence analysis.

Both of these claims rely on the assumption that the State failed to disclose the SOP File to Appellant. However, as addressed, the State made the SOP File available for Appellant's inspection, copying, and viewing over seven months prior to trial. Appellant's petition does not describe any attempts he or his counsel made to actually inspect the SOP File to support his assertion that it was withheld from them within the context of Brady.

Appellant fails to show how the SOP File would have led to his exoneration. Case No. 25 MA 0110 –5– Thus, Appellant's third pro se petition for postconviction relief does not meet the exceptions for an untimely petition set forth in R.C. 2953.23, and as a result, the trial court was without jurisdiction to consider the claims raised within.

As stated, even assuming *arguendo* that Appellant's petition was timely filed or that it satisfied R.C. 2953.21 or 2953.23, the petition failed to state substantive grounds for relief. Also, Appellant's claims were raised or could have been raised on direct appeal or in his prior petitions for postconviction relief. They are, therefore, barred by *res judicata*.

See [State v.] Perry, 10 Ohio St.2d [175,]... 180-181 [(1967)]. Because Appellant's third pro se petition was untimely filed, no exception entitling him to relief was demonstrated, his claims are

barred by principles of res judicata, and there are additionally no substantive, supporting grounds, the trial court did not abuse its discretion in reviewing his motion as a petition for postconviction relief and dismissing it without a hearing.

Smith, 2026-Ohio-1531, at ¶ 14-18 (7th Dist.). {¶8} Upon consideration of the App.R. 26(A) application filed in the present matter, it is apparent that Appellant has not demonstrated any obvious errors or raised any issues that were not adequately addressed in our previous opinion. This court is not persuaded that we erred as a matter of law. {¶9} An application for reconsideration is not designed to be used in situations wherein a party simply disagrees with the logic employed or the conclusions reached by an appellate court.

Owens, 112 Ohio App.3d at 336. App.R. 26(A) is meant to provide a mechanism by which a party may prevent a miscarriage of justice that could arise when an appellate court makes an obvious error or renders a decision that is not supported by the law. Id. Appellant has made no such demonstration. {¶10} For the foregoing reasons, Appellant's pro se application for reconsideration is hereby denied.

Case No. 25 MA 0110 –6– JUDGE KATELYN DICKEY JUDGE CHERYL L. WAITE JUDGE MARK A. HANNI NOTICE TO COUNSEL This document constitutes a final judgment entry. TO THE CLERK: PLEASE SERVE COPIES OF THIS ORDER TO ALL COUNSEL OF RECORD AND ANY SELF-REPRESENTED PARTIES Case No. 25 MA 0110