

COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Jarrett Deondre Stearns v. The State of Texas

Nos. 01-24-01000-CR & 01-24-01001-CR · No. Nos. 01-24-01000-CR & 01-24-01001-CR · Decided
November 25, 2025

SUMMARY

The First Court of Appeals of Texas reviewed Anders briefs in two appeals arising from Jarrett Deondre Stearns’s convictions for fentanyl possession with intent to deliver and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. The court independently found no reversible error or arguable grounds for review, affirmed the trial court’s judgments, and granted appointed counsel’s motions to withdraw.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Justice Guerra; Justice Guiney; Justice Johnson
JURISDICTION	Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas
DECIDED	November 25, 2025
DOCKET	Nos. 01-24-01000-CR & 01-24-01001-CR
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Stearns appealed jury convictions for possession of fentanyl with intent to deliver and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. Appointed appellate counsel filed Anders briefs and motions to withdraw, asserting that the appeals were frivolous and presented no reversible error.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	In an Anders appeal, the reviewing court independently examines the entire record to determine whether reversible error or any arguable ground for review exists; the court, rather than appointed counsel, makes the final determination whether the appeal is wholly frivolous.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential memorandum opinion; marked do not publish.
PARTIES	Jarrett Deondre Stearns v. The State of Texas

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure
- right to counsel
- standard of review
- preservation of error

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal appellate procedure

appointed appellate counsel

Anders proceedings

controlled-substance offenses

firearm-possession offenses

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether independent review of the appellate records in the Anders proceedings disclosed any reversible error or arguable ground for review.
2. Whether appointed appellate counsel's motions to withdraw should be granted after counsel filed Anders briefs and complied with the required procedures.

HOLDINGS

1. After independently reviewing the entire record in each appeal, the court concluded that no reversible error existed, no arguable grounds for review were present, and the appeals were frivolous.
2. The court granted appointed counsel's motion to withdraw in each appeal after determining that the Anders procedures had been satisfied and that the appeals were frivolous.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"We have independently reviewed the entire record in each appeal, and we conclude that no reversible error exists in the records, there are no arguable grounds for review, and the appeals are frivolous." (at 3)

"We affirm the judgments of the trial court and grant appellant's appointed counsel's motion to withdraw in each appeal." (at 4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Stearns was charged with felony possession of fentanyl with intent to deliver, involving more than four but less than 200 grams, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. A jury found him guilty of both offenses. The jury assessed concurrent punishment of thirty years' confinement and a \$10,000 fine for the fentanyl offense and five years' confinement and a \$5,000 fine for the firearm offense.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A jury found Stearns guilty of both charged offenses and assessed concurrent sentences of thirty years' confinement and a \$10,000 fine for the fentanyl offense, and five years' confinement and a \$5,000 fine for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. Stearns timely filed notices of appeal. After independently reviewing the records, the Court of Appeals found no reversible error or arguable grounds for review, affirmed the judgments, and granted appointed counsel's motions to withdraw.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967)
- *High v. State*, 573 S.W.2d 807, 811 (Tex. Crim. App. 1978)
- *Mitchell v. State*, 193 S.W.3d 153, 155 (Tex. App.—Houston [1st Dist.] 2006, no pet.)
- *Kelly v. State*, 436 S.W.3d 313, 319–22 (Tex. Crim. App. 2014)
- *In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d 403, 408–09 (Tex. Crim. App. 2008)
- *Garner v. State*, 300 S.W.3d 763, 767 (Tex. Crim. App. 2009)
- *Bledsoe v. State*, 178 S.W.3d 824, 826–27 (Tex. Crim. App. 2005)

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