

SUPREME COURT OF WYOMING

Taylor Forrest Cobb v. The State of Wyoming

2013 WY 142 (Wyo. 2013) · No. S-13-0175 · Decided November 14, 2013

SUMMARY

The Wyoming Supreme Court reversed and vacated Taylor Forrest Cobb’s felony conviction for possession of cocaine because the district court failed to provide the full firearms-rights and employment-consequences advisement required by Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 7-11-507(a)(ii). The matter was remanded for proceedings consistent with the order.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Wyoming
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Marilyn S. Kite, Chief Justice
JURISDICTION	Wyoming
DECIDED	November 14, 2013
DOCKET	S-13-0175
DISPOSITION	reversed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The appellant pleaded guilty to felony possession of cocaine and two misdemeanor possession offenses. After the appellant challenged the felony conviction for failure to receive the firearms-rights advisement required by Wyoming law, the parties filed a stipulated motion for reversal and remand.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Wyoming Supreme Court order; precedential treatment is not otherwise specified in the text.
PARTIES	Taylor Forrest Cobb v. The State of Wyoming

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- statutory interpretation
- sentencing

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- statutory interpretation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court could enter judgment on Cobb's guilty plea without advising him that a conviction could cause him to lose the right to engage in an occupation requiring the carrying or possession of a firearm under Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 7-11-507(a)(ii).
2. Whether the felony possession-of-cocaine conviction and sentence should be reversed and vacated because the required advisement was omitted.

HOLDINGS

1. An advisement that informs a defendant of the potential federal loss of firearm privileges satisfies § 7-11-507(a)(i), but does not satisfy § 7-11-507(a)(ii) unless it also advises that a defendant who works in an occupation requiring firearm possession may lose the right to engage in that profession or occupation.
2. Cobb's felony possession-of-cocaine conviction and sentence must be reversed and vacated because the district court entered judgment without providing the complete advisement required by Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 7-11-507.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“the legislature directed that no judgment of conviction be entered without advisement as to the potential loss of firearms privileges and its effect on employment in occupations requiring an employee to possess a gun.”
(¶3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Cobb pleaded guilty to felony possession of cocaine and misdemeanor possession of marijuana and heroin. Before entering his pleas, he was advised that a felony conviction could result in loss of his federal right to possess firearms. The district court entered judgment and sentence on July 31, 2013, but the advisement did not address the possible loss of employment or occupational rights for persons whose professions require carrying or possessing firearms.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The district court entered judgment and sentence on July 31, 2013, after Cobb pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. The Wyoming Supreme Court considered the parties' stipulated motion for reversal and remand and reversed and vacated the felony cocaine-possession conviction and sentence.

DISPOSITION

reversed

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The matter is remanded to the district court for proceedings consistent with the order.

CASES CITED

- *Balderson v. State*, 2013 WY 107, ¶ 21, 309 P.3d 809 (Wyo. 2013)

- Starrett v. State, 2012 WY 133, 286 P.3d 1033 (Wyo. 2012)

OPINION

MARILYN, J.

IN THE SUPREME COURT, STATE OF WYOMING 2013 WY 142 October Term, A.D. 2013 November 14, 2013 TAYLOR FORREST COBB, Appellant (Defendant), v. S-13-0175 THE STATE OF WYOMING, Appellee (Plaintiff). ORDER REVERSING JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE [¶1] This matter came before the Court upon a “Stipulated Motion for Reversal and Remand,” e-filed herein October 28, 2013.

After a careful review of the motion and the file, this Court finds as follows. Appellant pled guilty to three offenses: (1) possession of cocaine, a felony; (2) possession of marijuana, a misdemeanor; and (3) possession of heroin, a misdemeanor. Prior to entering his pleas, Appellant was advised that, if convicted of a felony, he would lose his “right to possess firearms under federal law.” The district court’s “Judgment and Sentence” was entered on July 31, 2013 [¶2] In his appellate brief, Appellant contends that his felony conviction should be reversed because he was not given the firearms advisement required by Wyo.

Stat. Ann. § 7-11-507. The State of Wyoming agrees. [¶3] This Court agrees as well. While the district court firearms advisement satisfied § 7-11- 507(a)(i), the advisement did not satisfy § 7-11-507(a)(ii). Here is what that statute requires: § 7-11-507. Advisement of loss of firearms rights upon conviction. (a) No judgment of conviction shall be entered upon a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any charge which may result in the disqualification of the defendant to possess firearms pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1), (9) and 924(a)(2) or other federal law unless the defendant was advised in open court by the judge: (i) Of the collateral consequences that may arise from that conviction pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 921(a)(33), 922(g)(1), (9) and 924(a)(2); and (ii) That if the defendant is a peace officer, member of the armed forces, hunting guide, security guard or engaged in any other profession or occupation requiring the carrying or possession of a firearm, that he may now, or in the future, lose the right to engage in that profession or occupation should he be convicted.

As this Court has noted, “the legislature directed that no judgment of conviction be entered without advisement as to the potential loss of firearms privileges and its effect on employment in occupations requiring an employee to possess a gun.” Balderson v. State, 2013 WY 107, ¶ 21, 309 P.3d 809 (Wyo. 2013) (emphasis supplied).

Therefore, based on Balderson and Starrett v. State, 2012 WY 133, 286 P.3d 1033 (Wyo. 2012), we reverse Appellant’s conviction and sentence for felony possession of cocaine. It is, therefore, [¶4] ORDERED that Appellant’s conviction for felony possession of cocaine, which is contained in the district court’s July 31, 2013, “Judgment and Sentence” be, and hereby is, reversed and vacated.

This matter is remanded to the district court for proceedings consistent with this order. [¶5]
DATED this 14th day of November, 2013. BY THE COURT*: /s/ MARILYN S. KITE Chief
Justice * Justice Hill would have denied the motion and required the State of Wyoming to file a
brief.

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/wyoming-supreme-court-of-wyoming/2013/taylor-forrest-cobb-v-the-state-of-wyoming-si02gu4q>