

THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA

Jamie Knowles v. State of Florida

No. 3D25-0846 · No. No. 3D25-0846 · Decided January 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The Third District Court of Appeal of Florida affirmed the circuit court’s decision in Jamie Knowles’s appeal under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(b)(2). The court relied on precedent and Florida statutes concerning the applicable law for criminal offenses and punishments, second-degree murder, firearm-based felony reclassification, and sentencing.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | Third District Court of Appeal of Florida                                                                                                       |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Chief Judge SCALES; Judge EMAS; Judge GOODEN                                                                                                    |
| JURISDICTION          | Third District Court of Appeal of Florida                                                                                                       |
| DECIDED               | January 28, 2026                                                                                                                                |
| DOCKET                | No. 3D25-0846                                                                                                                                   |
| DISPOSITION           | affirmed                                                                                                                                        |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Appeal under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.141(b)(2) from the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County in a criminal post-conviction matter. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Published opinion                                                                                                                               |
| PARTIES               | Jamie Knowles v. State of Florida                                                                                                               |

TOPICS

- post-conviction relief
- appellate procedure
- sentencing
- statutory interpretation
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- post-conviction relief
- appellate procedure
- sentencing

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the statutes in effect when the crime was committed governed the offenses for which Knowles could be convicted and the punishments that could be imposed.
- Whether the applicable 2014 Florida statutes authorized the degree of offense and punishment at issue.

## HOLDINGS

1. The statutes in effect at the time of commission of the crime control the offenses for which the perpetrator may be convicted and the punishments that may be imposed.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“It is firmly established law that the statutes in effect at the time of commission of a crime control as to the offenses for which the perpetrator can be convicted, as well as the punishments which may be imposed.”*

*“A person who has been convicted of any other designated felony may be punished . . . for a life felony committed on or after July 1, 1995, by a term of 2 imprisonment for life or by imprisonment for a term of years not exceeding life imprisonment.”*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion does not recite the underlying factual circumstances of the offense. It indicates that the appeal concerned the offenses and punishment applicable to Knowles under Florida statutes in effect at the time of the crime, including second-degree murder and firearm-related felony reclassification provisions.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Jamie Knowles appealed from a decision of the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County. The Third District Court of Appeal affirmed the lower court's disposition, relying on the law in effect when the offense was committed and the applicable 2014 Florida sentencing statutes.

## DISPOSITION

affirmed

## CASES CITED

- State v. McBride, 848 So. 2d 287, 291 (Fla. 2003)
- State v. Miranda, 793 So. 2d 1042, 1044 (Fla. 3d DCA 2001)