

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

United States v. Ronnie Cosby

No. 18-2053, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (May 9, 2019)

SUMMARY

The Seventh Circuit affirmed Ronnie Cosby's convictions for transporting a minor across state lines for prostitution (18 U.S.C. § 2423(a)), rejecting claims that the district court abused its discretion by denying a sixth continuance in light of prior delays and victim interests, and that the evidence was insufficient despite a two-day gap in prostitution after transport. The court also held that the district court did not err in denying a mistrial after an expert witness initially misstated her minimal involvement, as the testimony was corrected and did not affect the verdict, and that a state warrant authorizing seizure of a cell phone implicitly authorized searching its contents under *United States v. Fifer*.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	St. Eve; SYKES, SCUDDER, ST. EVE
JURISDICTION	Federal
DECIDED	May 9, 2019
DOCKET	18-2053
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from conviction after jury trial
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Abuse of discretion for continuance and mistrial rulings; sufficiency of evidence reviewed de novo with deference to jury; plain error for unpreserved claims; de novo for suppression motion but with deference to factual findings.
PARTIES	Ronnie Cornell Cosby v. United States of America

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Cosby, a pimp, transported a 15-year-old runaway minor, T.L., from Illinois to Indiana with the intent that she engage in prostitution. He used Backpage to advertise her

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Cosby was indicted on multiple counts related to sex trafficking of a minor. After several continuances and a superseding indictment, the case proceeded to trial. The jury convicted him on Count III and other charges. The

district court denied motions for judgment of acquittal and a new trial. Cosby appealed.

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