

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

Herring v. State

501 So. 2d 1279 (Fla. 1986) · No. No. 67524 · Decided December 30, 1986

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Florida affirmed the denial, without an evidentiary hearing, of Ted Herring's Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850 motion. The court held that most claims were procedurally improper because they were raised or could have been raised on direct appeal, rejected Herring's proportionality and ineffective-assistance claims, and upheld the capital sentencing statute against his constitutional challenge.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	McDonald, C.J.; Adkins, J.; Boyd, J.; Overton, J.; Ehrlich, J.; Shaw, J.; Barkett, J.
JURISDICTION	Florida
DECIDED	December 30, 1986
DOCKET	No. 67524
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from the trial court's denial, without an evidentiary hearing, of Herring's motion for post-conviction relief under Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the denial of Rule 3.850 post-conviction relief and the determination that the ineffective-assistance claims did not warrant an evidentiary hearing.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published precedential opinion of the Supreme Court of Florida
PARTIES	Ted Herring v. State of Florida

TOPICS

- state post-conviction relief
- post-conviction relief
- sentencing
- ineffective assistance
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal procedure

post-conviction relief

capital sentencing

ineffective assistance of counsel

appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether claims that were raised or could have been raised on direct appeal may be relitigated in a Rule 3.850 post-conviction motion.
2. Whether Herring's death sentence was disproportionate under *Caruthers v. State*.
3. Whether Herring was entitled to an evidentiary hearing on his ineffective-assistance-of-counsel claims.
4. Whether Florida's capital sentencing statute was discriminatorily applied.

HOLDINGS

1. A Rule 3.850 motion may not be used as a second appeal to consider issues that were raised or could have been raised on the initial direct appeal.
2. Herring's claim that his death sentence was disproportionate and that *Caruthers* required a life sentence was without merit.
3. Herring was not entitled to an evidentiary hearing because his ineffective-assistance claims did not satisfy the governing *Strickland* and *Knight* standards.
4. Herring's claim that Florida's capital sentencing statute was discriminatorily applied was rejected.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"As we have previously stated, a 3.850 motion cannot be utilized for a second appeal to consider issues that either were raised or could have been raised in the initial appeal." (501 So. 2d at 1280)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Herring was convicted and sentenced to death for robbing and killing a convenience-store clerk. The evidence showed that Herring shot the clerk once after perceiving a threatening move and shot him again after he hit the ground. Herring had a prior robbery conviction, and the record included evidence that he killed the victim to eliminate him as a witness.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Herring was convicted and sentenced to death for robbing and killing a convenience-store clerk, and the Supreme Court of Florida affirmed the conviction and sentence on direct appeal. He then sought post-conviction relief under Rule 3.850, raising claims that either had been or could have been raised on direct appeal, along with proportionality, ineffective-assistance, and discriminatory-application claims. The trial court denied relief without an evidentiary hearing, and the Supreme Court of Florida affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Herring v. State, 446 So. 2d 1049 (Fla. 1984)
- Sireci v. State, 469 So. 2d 119 (Fla. 1985)
- Jones v. State, 446 So. 2d 1059 (Fla. 1984)
- Demps v. State, 416 So. 2d 808 (Fla. 1982)
- Caruthers v. State, 465 So. 2d 496 (Fla. 1985)
- Tafero v. State, 459 So. 2d 1034 (Fla. 1984)
- Sullivan v. State, 441 So. 2d 609 (Fla. 1983)
- Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984)
- Knight v. State, 394 So. 2d 997 (Fla. 1981)
- Smith v. State, 457 So. 2d 1380 (Fla. 1984)
- Adams v. State, 449 So. 2d 819 (Fla. 1984)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

501 So. 2d 1279 (1986) Ted HERRING, Appellant, v. STATE of Florida, Appellee. No. 67524. Supreme Court of Florida. December 30, 1986. Rehearing Denied March 2, 1987. Jeremy G. Epstein, Dennis P. Orr, Kenneth A. Freeling and James P. Bodovitz of Shearman & Sterling, New York City, for appellant. Jim Smith, Atty. Gen. and Ellen D. Phillips, Asst. Atty. Gen., Daytona Beach, for appellee.

PER CURIAM. Ted Herring appeals a trial court's denial of his motion for post-conviction relief without an evidentiary hearing under the provisions of Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850. We have jurisdiction, article V, section 3(b)(1), Florida Constitution, and affirm. Herring was convicted and sentenced to death for robbing and killing a convenience store clerk.

The evidence reflected that Herring shot the clerk once when he perceived a threatening move, and then shot the clerk again "when he hit the ground." This Court affirmed Herring's conviction and sentence in *Herring v. State*, 446 So. 2d 1049 (Fla.), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 989, 105 S. Ct. 396, 83 L. Ed. 2d 330 (1984). Herring raises the following multiple issues that could have been raised on appeal: (1) the trial court erroneously applied two statutory aggravating circumstances; (2) the trial court impermissibly counted both the cold, calculated, and premeditated and the elimination of witness aggravating circumstances; (3) the trial judge applied a nonstatutory aggravating factor in sentencing Herring to death; (4) Herring's probation officer should not have been allowed to testify concerning Herring's comment about the victim; (5) the death penalty jury instructions were constitutionally inadequate; (6) the trial judge *1280 failed to consider the death sentence's proportionality; (7) the trial court erroneously excluded Herring's proffered mitigating evidence; (8) the trial court applied an incorrect sentencing standard; (9) during the sentencing phase closing

arguments, the prosecutor improperly suggested that Herring might be granted parole if given life imprisonment; (10) excluding a prospective juror for cause because of his death penalty views violated the sixth and fourteenth amendments; (11) the state did not prove Herring knowingly and intelligently waived his privilege against self-incrimination and his right to appeal; and, finally, (12) the trial judge erred by abandoning his duty to review the jury's recommended sentence.

We reject all these contentions as improper for a 3.850 motion. As we have previously stated, a 3.850 motion cannot be utilized for a second appeal to consider issues that either were raised or could have been raised in the initial appeal. *Sireci v. State*, 469 So. 2d 119 (Fla. 1985), cert. denied, ___ U.S. ___, 106 S. Ct. 3308, 92 L. Ed. 2d 721 (1986); *Jones v. State*, 446 So.

2d 1059 (Fla. 1984); *Demps v. State*, 416 So. 2d 808 (Fla. 1982). Appellant next claims that his sentence is not proportionate, and that *Caruthers v. State*, 465 So. 2d 496 (Fla. 1985), decided after we affirmed the initial appeal in this case, mandates a life sentence.

The state responds that a prior case is not reviewable in light of a subsequent decision, citing *Tafero v. State*, 459 So. 2d 1034 (Fla. 1984), and *Sullivan v. State*, 441 So. 2d 609 (Fla. 1983). We do not reach that issue because there are clear distinguishing characteristics between *Caruthers* and *Herring*. *Caruthers* had no significant history of prior criminal activity, and the sentencing proceeding considered other nonstatutory mitigating factors.

Herring, however, had a prior robbery conviction. Additionally, there was evidence that *Herring* killed the victim to eliminate him as a witness. We hold that *Herring's* contention on this issue is without merit. In his next point, *Herring* contends that an evidentiary hearing was necessary to decide his ineffective-assistance-of-counsel claims.

The trial judge, in an extensive order, fully explained why each of the ineffective-assistance-of-counsel claims did not meet the test set forth in *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 80 L. Ed. 2d 674 (1984), and *Knight v. State*, 394 So. 2d 997 (Fla. 1981).

We agree with the trial judge's findings and commend him for his detailed explanation. Finally, we reject *Herring's* claim that our capital sentencing statute is discriminatorily applied. We have rejected this claim in multiple decisions. *Smith v. State*, 457 So. 2d 1380 (Fla. 1984); *Adams v. State*, 449 So. 2d 819 (Fla. 1984).

For the reasons expressed, we affirm the trial court's denial of relief. It is so ordered. McDONALD, C.J., and ADKINS, BOYD, OVERTON, EHRLICH, SHAW and BARKETT, JJ., concur.