

SUPREME COURT OF NORTH DAKOTA

In the Interest of B.L.H.

2025 ND 207 · No. No. 20250397 · Decided December 4, 2025

SUMMARY

The North Dakota Supreme Court affirmed an order authorizing involuntary treatment with prescribed medication. The court held that the district court’s findings under N.D.C.C. § 25-03.1-18.1 were not clearly erroneous and that ordering medication did not constitute an abuse of discretion, summarily affirming under N.D.R.App.P. 35.1(a)(2) and (4).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of North Dakota
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jon J. Jensen, C.J.; Daniel J. Crothers; Lisa Fair McEvers; Jerod E. Tufte; Douglas A. Bahr
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of North Dakota
DECIDED	December 4, 2025
DOCKET	No. 20250397
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	B.L.H. appealed from a district court order granting involuntary treatment with prescribed medication.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	In mental health commitment cases, factual findings are reviewed under the more probing clearly erroneous standard. The decision to order involuntary treatment with prescribed medication is reviewed for abuse of discretion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	B.L.H. v. Sarah Berg, APRN-CNP, PMHNP-BC

TOPICS

- health law
- appellate procedure
- standard of review
- statutory interpretation

PRACTICE AREAS

- health law
- mental health commitment
- involuntary medication

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court clearly erred in finding B.L.H. mentally ill and a person requiring treatment.
2. Whether the district court abused its discretion by ordering involuntary treatment with prescribed medication after finding the statutory factors satisfied.

HOLDINGS

1. The district court’s findings that B.L.H. was mentally ill and a person requiring treatment were not clearly erroneous.
2. The district court did not abuse its discretion by ordering involuntary treatment with prescribed medication after finding the statutory requirements satisfied.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Before a district court may order involuntary treatment with prescribed medication, the court must find, by clear and convincing evidence, that the patient meets the four factors listed under N.D.C.C. § 25-03.1-18.1(1)(a):” (¶ 2)

“We conclude the district court’s findings are not clearly erroneous, and the court did not abuse its discretion by ordering involuntary treatment with prescribed medication.” (¶ 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The district court found B.L.H. to be mentally ill and a person requiring treatment. It also found the statutory requirements for involuntary treatment with prescribed medication satisfied and granted the petitioner’s request. B.L.H. challenged those findings and the medication order on appeal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The District Court of Stutsman County, Southeast Judicial District, entered an order granting involuntary treatment with prescribed medication. B.L.H. appealed, arguing the court erred in finding him mentally ill, finding him to be a person requiring treatment, and authorizing involuntary medication. The North Dakota Supreme Court summarily affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- In re Doe, 2019 ND 23, ¶ 4, 921 N.W.2d 403
- In re C.A.R., 2020 ND 209, ¶ 9, 950 N.W.2d 186
- In re J.J.G., 2022 ND 236, ¶ 9, 982 N.W.2d 851

