

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, FOURTH
DISTRICT

Jean JeanCharles v. State of Florida

No. 4D2024-1717 (Fla. 4th DCA Apr. 23, 2025) · No. 4D2024-1717 · Decided April 23, 2025

SUMMARY

The Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal granted rehearing, withdrew its prior opinion, and affirmed the denial of Jean JeanCharles’s second amended motion for post-conviction relief. The court held that the trial court had discretion under Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850(f)(2) to permit the second amendment, making previously raised claims timely, but affirmed because those claims were legally insufficient and declined to address claims raised for the first time in the second amended motion.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida, Fourth District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Warner, J.; Conner, J.; Forst, J.
JURISDICTION	Florida District Court of Appeal, Fourth District
DECIDED	April 23, 2025
DOCKET	4D2024-1717
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from an order denying a second amended motion for post-conviction relief under Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The opinion does not expressly identify a standard of review. It reviews the trial court's application of Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850 and its denial of post-conviction relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Jean JeanCharles v. State of Florida

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850(f)(2) permitted the trial court to allow a second amended post-conviction motion approximately three years after the prior amendment period had expired.
2. Whether claims timely raised in the original post-conviction motion remained timely when renewed in a second amended motion authorized by the trial court.
3. Whether claims raised for the first time in the second amended motion could be considered under Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850(e).
4. Whether the renewed ineffective-assistance claims warranted post-conviction relief despite being timely.

HOLDINGS

1. Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850(f)(2) gives the trial court discretion to permit an additional opportunity to amend a post-conviction motion, including under the circumstances presented here.
2. Claims timely raised in the original post-conviction motion remained timely when renewed in the second amended motion that the trial court had authorized.
3. The renewed claims were properly denied because Jean Charles failed to demonstrate prejudice, rendering them legally insufficient.
4. The trial court properly declined to address claims raised for the first time in the second amended motion.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“If the amended motion is still insufficient or if the defendant fails to file an amended motion within the time allowed for such amendment, the court, in its discretion, may permit the defendant an additional opportunity to amend the motion or may enter a final, appealable order summarily denying the motion with prejudice.”
(slip op. at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jean JeanCharles filed an initial and an amended post-conviction motion while proceeding pro se, and both were found legally insufficient. After the sixty-day amendment period had passed, he obtained counsel and, approximately three years later, received permission to file a second amended motion. That motion timely renewed two ineffective-assistance claims raised in the earlier motions and added new claims, but the trial court denied it as untimely.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Jean JeanCharles filed a timely pro se motion and amended motion for post-conviction relief. The circuit court found both motions legally insufficient and granted leave to amend, but JeanCharles did not amend within the sixty-day period. Approximately three years later, represented by counsel, he moved to file a second amended

motion; the trial court allowed the amendment, but later denied the second amended motion as untimely. The Fourth District granted rehearing, withdrew its prior opinion, and affirmed, holding that the renewed claims were timely but legally insufficient and that newly added claims were properly not considered.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Hammond v. State, 34 So. 3d 58, 60 (Fla. 4th DCA 2010)

OPINION

Jean JeanCharles v. State of Florida

PER CURIAM.

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

FOURTH DISTRICT

JEAN JEANCHARLES,

Appellant, v.

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Appellee. No. 4D2024-1717 [April 23, 2025] Appeal of order denying rule 3.850 motion from the Circuit Court for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Palm Beach County; Scott Suskauer, Judge; L.T. Case No. 50-2012-CF-012576-AXXX-MB. Lisa Viscome, West Palm Beach, for appellant. James Uthmeier, Attorney General, Tallahassee, and Kimberly T. Acuña, Senior Assistant Attorney General, West Palm Beach, for appellee.

ON MOTION FOR REHEARING

PER CURIAM. We grant appellant Jean JeanCharles' motion for rehearing, withdraw our previous opinion, and issue the following in its place. JeanCharles appeals the trial court's order denying his second amended motion for post-conviction relief. We affirm without discussion with respect to the substantive merits of JeanCharles' claims but write to clarify a procedural point. The trial court had the discretion under Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.850(f)(2) to allow JeanCharles to file a second amended motion under the circumstances. We thus find JeanCharles' renewed claims in his second amended motion were timely raised, but nonetheless affirm because those claims were legally insufficient. While pro se, JeanCharles filed a timely motion and amended motion for post-conviction relief. The trial court determined each motion was legally insufficient and provided JeanCharles with leave to amend each within sixty days. Following the trial court's ruling on his amended motion, JeanCharles did not amend within sixty days. Roughly three years later, now represented by counsel, JeanCharles moved to file a second amended motion for post-conviction relief, which the trial court permitted. The trial court provided JeanCharles with sixty days to file his second amended motion. With counsel's assistance, JeanCharles timely complied—

renewing two ineffective assistance of counsel claims which he had raised years prior and adding some new claims. The State argued the trial court lacked the discretion to consider these claims because JeanCharles did not file his second amended motion within the sixty-day period following denial of his amended motion. The trial court nonetheless granted the motion to allow amendment but subsequently denied JeanCharles' second amended motion as untimely. This appeal follows. Here, the trial court exercised its discretion to grant JeanCharles with leave to file his second amended motion, even though roughly three years had passed since JeanCharles had filed his facially insufficient motion and first amended motion. Per rule 3.850(f)(2): If the amended motion is still insufficient or if the defendant fails to file an amended motion within the time allowed for such amendment, the court, in its discretion, may permit the defendant an additional opportunity to amend the motion or may enter a final, appealable order summarily denying the motion with prejudice. Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.850(f)(2) (emphasis added). Thus, as the trial court exercised that discretion, claims that had been timely raised in JeanCharles' original motion were subject to adjudication on the merits, and the court erred in denying them as untimely. Nevertheless, we affirm as to those claims because JeanCharles failed to demonstrate prejudice. See generally *Hammond v. State*, 34 So. 3d 58, 60 (Fla. 4th DCA 2010) (a claim with an insufficient allegation of prejudice is legally insufficient and should be denied on the merits). Moreover, the trial court properly declined to address claims raised for the first time in the second amended motion. Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.850(e). Affirmed. WARNER, CONNER and FORST, JJ., concur. * * * Not final until disposition of timely filed motion for rehearing. 2