

BOISE, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, AT 9:00 A.M.

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Docket No. 50602

STATE OF IDAHO)
 Plaintiffs-Respondents,)
)
 v.)
)
 DAVID LAWRENCE RANDALL,)
)
 Defendants-Appellants.)
 _____)

Appeal from the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District, State of Idaho, Ada County. Hon. Steven J. Hippler, District Judge.

Erik R. Lehtinen, State Appellate Public Defender; Sally J. Cooley, Deputy Appellate Public Defender, Boise, for appellant.

Hon. Raúl R. Labrador, Attorney General; Kenneth K. Jorgensen, Deputy Attorney General, Boise, for respondent.

David Lawrence Randall appeals from his judgment of conviction and unified life sentence, with a minimum period of confinement of twenty-five years, for first degree murder. Randall and the victim were in a dating relationship. Following a request for a welfare check, officers located the victim’s vehicle at Randall’s residence and discovered the deceased victim on Randall’s couch. Randall was charged with one count of first degree murder under three alternative theories: premeditation, torture murder, and felony murder. The State also charged Randall with a deadly weapon enhancement.

Prior to trial, the parties litigated the admissibility of evidence pursuant to I.C. § 18-207 with respect to Randall’s mental health, including whether he withdrew his request to introduce such evidence. Ultimately, the district court denied Randall’s request for funding to hire an expert to present mental health evidence, finding that Randall expressly waived the right to pursue an I.C. § 18-207 defense; failed to provide timely notice of his intent to re-raise the defense as required by I.C. § 18-207(4)(a); failed to establish good cause for an extension of the statutory deadline; and failed to articulate a factual basis giving rise to the defense. Thereafter, Randall pled guilty to first degree felony murder pursuant to a plea agreement. In exchange for Randall’s plea, the State dismissed the deadly weapon enhancement and agreed to recommend a unified life sentence, with a minimum period of confinement of twenty-five years.

Approximately four months after Randall entered his guilty plea, but prior to sentencing, Randall filed a motion to withdraw his guilty plea, citing counsel's withdrawal of Randall's I.C. § 18-207 defense as the basis for the motion. The district court denied Randall's motion after finding that his guilty plea was entered knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily, and finding that he failed to show just reason for withdrawing his guilty plea. The district court sentenced Randall to a unified life term, with a minimum period of confinement of twenty-five years. Randall appeals, challenging the denial of his motion to withdraw his guilty plea and his sentence.