

BOISE, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

STATE OF IDAHO,)	
)	Docket No. 50841
Plaintiff-Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
CORY LEE ADAMS,)	
)	
Defendant-Respondent.)	

Appeal from the District Court of the Fifth Judicial District, State of Idaho, Twin Falls County. Roger B. Harris, District Judge.

Raúl R. Labrador, Idaho Attorney General, Boise, for Appellant.

Erik R. Lehtinen, State Appellate Public Defender, Boise, for Respondent.

This case raises an issue of first impression regarding the scope of law enforcement’s community caretaking function. The State is appealing the district court’s order that granted Cory Lee Adams’ motion to suppress evidence. The court ruled in favor of Adams by suppressing evidence obtained from a warrantless search of Adams’ pants pocket conducted by police during a pat-down. The district court also subsequently denied the State’s motion for reconsideration.

The officer searched Adams’ pockets before placing him in the patrol car to transport him from the St. Luke’s emergency department to the Canyon View Hospital for observation under a mental health hold. The district court determined that the search was unlawful, as Adams was not under arrest, and there was no indication that he was armed and dangerous at the time.

The State requests that the Idaho Supreme Court reverse the district court’s ruling and remand the case for further proceedings, arguing that Adams was lawfully in State custody under the officer’s community caretaking function due to the mental health hold. The State asserts that it was reasonable for police to frisk Adams and then search his pockets before transporting him in a police vehicle. Conversely, Adams argues that the community caretaking function does not provide a standalone justification for conducting a warrantless search of an individual.