

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State v. Roy Ayers Baxter Jr., Docket No. 44535

In the case arising out of Ada County, the Court of Appeals affirmed Roy Ayers Baxter Jr.'s judgment of conviction entered by the district court.

The State charged Baxter with domestic violence and violation of a no-contact order. A proposed plea agreement provided the State would recommend a rider if a domestic violence evaluation showed that Baxter was a high risk to reoffend or would recommend probation if the evaluation showed Baxter was less than a high risk to reoffend. During the evaluation, Baxter was not entirely forthcoming. The evaluation classified Baxter as a moderate to high risk to reoffend and Baxter pled guilty. The prosecutor soon after provided the evaluator with supplemental information to correct and complete the evaluation. Based on this supplemental information, the evaluator reclassified Baxter as a high risk to reoffend. Accordingly, the prosecutor advised Baxter that the State would recommend a rider instead of probation.

Baxter filed a motion to withdraw his guilty plea, arguing the prosecutor's intervention with the psychologist after Baxter pled guilty rendered the plea agreement meaningless. Baxter maintained he could not have foreseen the post-guilty plea circumstances that ultimately resulted in a rider recommendation. The district court denied Baxter's motion to withdraw his guilty plea, reasoning Baxter did not demonstrate a just reason to withdraw his guilty plea.

The Idaho Court of Appeals determined that the prosecutor reaching out to the evaluator had no impact on the plea agreement because it is imperative that domestic violence evaluations are both complete and accurate. Moreover, the initial evaluation was incomplete and inaccurate solely due to Baxter's own omissions. Because Baxter did not demonstrate a just reason to withdraw his guilty plea, the district court did not err in denying Baxter's motion.