SUMMARY STATEMENT

State v. Cota-Medina
Docket No. 44940/44941

In this appeal, the Idaho Supreme Court reversed the Canyon County district court's order and reinstated the magistrate court's order waiving juvenile jurisdiction over Manuel Jesus Cota-Medina. Cota-Medina was charged with trafficking heroin as a result of an undercover police operation. Cota-Medina was seventeen years old when he allegedly committed the trafficking offense. The State moved to waive juvenile jurisdiction and proceed on the trafficking charge in adult criminal court. The magistrate court determined juvenile jurisdiction should be waived and Cota-Medina should be tried in adult court. Cota-Medina appealed and the district court, acting in an intermediate appellate capacity, reversed the magistrate court's order, thus concluding juvenile jurisdiction should not have been waived. The State timely appealed.

On appeal, the Supreme Court held that the district court erred when it reversed the magistrate court's order waiving juvenile jurisdiction over Cota-Medina. The Court noted that the magistrate court had correctly applied the relevant statute, and the district court erred when it employed its own analysis not consistent with the plain language of the statue. Thus, the Court reversed the district court's order, reinstated the magistrate court's order, and remanded for proceedings consistent with the Court's opinion.