

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State v. Jones
Case No. 45905

In an appeal arising out of Ada County, the Idaho Supreme Court affirmed Timothy Isiah Jones's judgment of conviction entered in district court. A jury found Jones guilty of trafficking in heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia on February 21, 2018. Before and during trial, Jones objected to the admission of video and testimonial evidence showing that he was on probation at the time he was searched by law enforcement. He also objected to the admission of a knife, found in his pocket when he was searched, into evidence. The district court overruled Jones's objections. On appeal, Jones argued the district court erred in admitting the probation evidence because it was evidence of a prior crime, impermissibly used for propensity purposes. Jones also argued the district court erred in admitting the knife into evidence on the grounds that it was not relevant and that any probative value of the knife was substantially outweighed by the risk of prejudice to his case. Finally, Jones argued the district court abused its discretion by imposing an excessive sentence. The Idaho Supreme Court held that the district court erred in admitting the knife into evidence because it was not relevant to the crimes for which Jones was charged. A majority of the Court also determined that the district court erred in admitting evidence of Jones's probationary status because it was evidence of a prior crime and the State had not provided a sufficient non-propensity purpose for admitting the evidence. However, the Court ultimately affirmed Jones's judgment of conviction after holding that both errors were harmless. Finally, the Court held that the district court did not abuse its discretion in sentencing Jones.