

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State of Idaho v. Mario A. Reyes

Docket No. 46439

In this case arising out of Canyon County, the Court of Appeals affirmed Mario A. Reyes's judgment of conviction for domestic battery with traumatic injury, attempted strangulation, and aggravated assault. After returning home from a night out with the victim (his wife) and the victim's niece and her husband, Reyes and the victim got into a physical altercation that caused the niece to call emergency services. When officers arrived, the victim was lying on the kitchen floor bleeding and semi-conscious with a broken nose and three fractured teeth.

The State charged Reyes with aggravated battery, attempted strangulation, malicious injury to property, and domestic battery with traumatic injury. After a jury trial, Reyes was found guilty of domestic battery with traumatic injury, attempted strangulation, and aggravated assault. Reyes appealed.

On appeal, Reyes argued that the district court erred in admitting irrelevant character evidence and the victim's preliminary hearing testimony; that the prosecutor engaged in misconduct during closing argument; and that, even if these errors were individually harmless, they constituted cumulative error. The Court of Appeals held that, although the district court erred by allowing the prosecution to inquire into Reyes's criminal history and whether Reyes violated his probation on the night of the altercation, the errors were harmless individually. The Court of Appeals rejected Reyes's other claims of error and held that the two individual errors did not cumulatively deprive Reyes of a fair trial.