

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State of Idaho v. Sharron Amanda Bills

Docket No. 46612

The State charged Sharron Amanda Bills with: felony trafficking in heroin, Idaho Code § 37-2732B(a)(6)(B); felony possession of methamphetamine, I.C. § 37-2732(c)(1); and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, I.C. § 37-2734A. Bills filed a motion to suppress and argued the search of her person was unlawful and any statements derived from the unlawful search should be suppressed. The motion to suppress was denied in part and granted in part. The district court found that although the officer did not possess reasonable suspicion that Bills was armed and dangerous, the drugs found on Bills were admissible under the inevitable discovery doctrine because Bills would have been searched incident to her arrest. In addition, the district court found that the statements Bills made to the officers after she was given *Miranda* warnings were admissible. Bills entered a conditional guilty plea, and reserved her right to appeal the district court's denial of her motion to suppress.

On appeal, Bills argued the exclusionary rule required suppression of the statements she made when responding to the officer's question about the evidence unlawfully seized from her person. The Court of Appeals agreed with the district court that the search of Bills was unlawful and that the drugs found on Bills were admissible under the inevitable discovery doctrine. The Court of Appeals further held that the statements made by Bills, which were the result of being confronted by police with evidence derived from an illegal search, were inadmissible since they were fruit of the poisonous tree. The district court's denial of Bills' motion to suppress was thereby reversed, the judgment of conviction was vacated, and the case was remanded.