

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

*State v. Chambers*

Docket No. 47309

Stegner, J., authored the opinion of the Court, in which Burdick, C.J., and Moeller, J., joined. Brody, J., authored a concurring opinion. Bevan, J., authored a dissenting opinion.

In an appeal arising out of Kootenai County, the Idaho Supreme Court vacated Steven Chambers' judgment of conviction entered upon his *Alford* plea to battery with intent to commit a serious felony, and remanded the case for additional proceedings. Chambers was initially charged with forcible rape against a young woman (who will be referred to by the initials N.S.). Pursuant to I.R.E. 412, Chambers moved to introduce evidence of a purportedly false allegation N.S. made against a different individual approximately six months *after* her alleged rape by Chambers. The State objected to the admission of such evidence. After a Rule 412 hearing, the district court excluded evidence of the purportedly false allegation.

The Idaho Supreme Court held that I.R.E. 412 does not contain a temporal requirement that the false allegation must precede the events giving rise to the charge. Additionally, the Court held that the district court abused its discretion by applying the I.R.E. 403 balancing test instead of the balancing test provided in I.R.E. 412. Further, the Idaho Supreme Court established a three-part test to determine the admissibility of an allegedly false allegation: First, the district court must determine whether the allegation is false by a preponderance of the evidence. Second, the district court must determine whether the evidence is relevant. Finally, the district court must engage in the balancing test set forth in I.R.E. 412(c)(2).