

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State v. Stegall
Case No. 47612

In an appeal arising out of Kootenai County, the Idaho Supreme Court affirmed an order of the district court granting in part Jeffrey Dwayne Stegall's motion to suppress evidence obtained from a blood alcohol concentration test.

Stegall was charged with a felony for driving under the influence of alcohol after several Idaho State Police troopers found him slumped forward in the driver's seat of a car, arrested him based on an outstanding warrant, and determined that his blood alcohol concentration was above the legal limit by testing his blood pursuant to a search warrant. Before trial, Stegall filed a motion to suppress the blood alcohol concentration evidence, arguing that his right to due process had been violated when, despite his requests, officers at the jail did not allow him to make a phone call to an attorney until the morning after his arrest. The district court granted Stegall's motion to suppress in part, determining that his due process rights were violated.

On appeal, the State argued that the district court erred in concluding the jail officers had violated Stegall's right to due process because the officers were not acting in bad faith when they did not allow him to make a phone call. Reasoning that DUI arrestees have a due process right to gather independent evidence for their defense, the Idaho Supreme Court concluded that Stegall's right had been violated when the officers ignored his request to call an attorney. Accordingly, the Court affirmed the district court's order suppressing the blood alcohol concentration evidence.

This summary constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court, but has been prepared by court staff for the convenience of the public.