

STATEMENT

State of Idaho v. Alejandra Maria Ochoa
Docket No. 47796

In this case arising out of Canyon County, the Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the district court, on intermediate appeal from the magistrate court, vacating Ochoa's judgment of conviction for misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter. Ochoa turned left from a convenience store parking lot without stopping before entering the roadway, which resulted in a motorcyclist colliding with Ochoa's vehicle. The motorcyclist initially survived the crash, but died at the hospital hours later. The State then charged Ochoa with misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter. A jury found Ochoa guilty, and she appealed to the district court.

On intermediate appeal, the district court vacated Ochoa's judgment of conviction and remanded the case for a new trial, concluding that the magistrate court erred in excluding evidence of controlled substances in the victim's blood, failing to grant a motion by Ochoa seeking to continue the trial, and permitting the State's pathologist to testify about the contents of the victim's medical records. The State appealed.

On appeal to the Idaho Court of Appeals, the State argued that the district court erred by concluding that: (1) evidence of the victim's blood toxicology was erroneously excluded; (2) Ochoa's request for a continuance was improperly denied; and (3) the State's pathologist was not allowed to testify about information in the victim's medical records. The Court of Appeals held that the district court erred in concluding that the toxicology evidence was relevant, the trial should have been continued, and the pathologist's testimony was inadmissible. Consequently, the Court of Appeals reversed the district court's decision vacating Ochoa's judgment of conviction.

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