

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State v. Hale

Docket No. 48578

William Joseph Hale, II, appealed his judgment of conviction for two counts of felony possession of a controlled substance and one count of possession of drug paraphernalia. After a drug-detecting dog alerted on the car Hale had been driving, law enforcement conducted a warrantless search of the vehicle, discovering various controlled substances and drug paraphernalia. Hale moved to suppress the evidence resulting from the search, arguing that the responding officer had impermissibly prolonged the stop while waiting for the drug-detecting dog by inquiring about Hale's permission to operate the vehicle. The Ada County district court denied Hale's motion, reasoning that the officer's questions were within the permissible scope of the traffic stop. The Court of Appeals affirmed, concluding that the questions regarding Hale's permission to operate the vehicle comported with the Fourth Amendment.

The Idaho Supreme Court granted review and affirmed the district court's decision. The Court held that law enforcement's questioning concerning Hale's permission to operate the stopped vehicle was within the ambit of ordinary inquiries incident to a traffic stop. The Court reasoned that officer questions following-up on the veracity or accuracy of information provided as part of the standard license, registration, and insurance checks did not exceed the scope of a traffic stop's purpose.

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