

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State v. Riley

Docket No. 49087

The Idaho Supreme Court reversed the district court in granting the defendant's motion to suppress evidence of methamphetamine and paraphernalia seized after a drug dog alerted on her vehicle. Sunny Riley argued that the officer conducting the traffic stop deviated from the initial purpose of the traffic stop and that those deviations unconstitutionally prolonged her stop.

On reviewing the body camera footage, the Supreme Court concluded that the district court erred in two ways. First, the district court erroneously concluded that the length of the officers' conversation could not be determined from the videos. Second, the district court erred in determining the total time of the traffic-stop deviations unlawfully prolonged Riley's seizure. The Supreme Court held that while there were two deviations from the traffic stop totaling 28 seconds, there was no violation of Riley's Fourth Amendment rights because the drug dog alerted a full 48 seconds before the officer completed writing Riley's traffic citation. Thus, the deviations did not actually lengthen the stop—the drug dog still would have alerted 20 seconds before the citations were complete. Since that alert created new reasonable suspicion of unlawful activity, the officers could properly continue their investigation.

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