

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

*State v. Oldenburg*

Docket No. 49358

This appeal concerns the appropriate mechanism by which a lower court may seal court records following the resolution of a criminal case. Following the State's dismissal of criminal charges against him, Nickolaus Oldenburg filed a motion in district court to seal the criminal court file pursuant to Idaho Code section 67-3004(10). The State did not contest the motion. Nevertheless, the district court concluded that it did not have the requisite authority to seal Oldenburg's case file under section 67-3004(10) and, therefore, could not grant his request. As a result of its analysis, the district court denied Oldenburg's motion. Oldenburg appealed the district court's denial of his request.

The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the district court, concluding that section 67-3004(10) did not independently vest the district court with the authority to seal Oldenburg's court file. Instead, Idaho Court Administrative Rule 32(i) governs the sealing of court records. This Court reiterated that it "has the inherent power to make rules governing the procedure in all of Idaho's courts." *State v. Weigle*, 165 Idaho 482, 486, 447 P.3d 930, 934 (2019) (quoting *Talbot v. Ames Constr.*, 127 Idaho 648, 651, 904 P.2d 560, 563 (1995)). In the event of a conflict between this Court's procedural rules and a "statutory provision that is procedural in nature[.]" this Court's rules govern. *Id.* (internal citations omitted). Thus, Idaho Court Administrative Rule 32(i) governs the sealing of court records rather than section 67-3004(10). As a result, this Court affirmed the district court's order denying Oldenburg's motion pursuant to Idaho Code section 67-3004(10).

***\*\*\*This summary constitutes no part of the Court's opinion. It has been prepared by court staff for the convenience of the public.\*\*\****