

SUMMARY STATEMENT
State of Idaho v. John Doe (2022-04)
Docket No. 49496

In this case arising out of Ada County, the Court of Appeals dismissed John Doe’s appeal from an order for commitment. A physician placed Doe on an involuntary hold due to concerns Doe was gravely disabled due to mental illness. After three designated examiners evaluated Doe and determined he met criteria for an involuntary commitment, the magistrate court held a hearing on whether to grant the State’s petition to involuntarily commit Doe to the custody of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Following a hearing, the magistrate court entered an order granting the State’s petition. Doe appealed the order for commitment to the district court, arguing the magistrate court erred by refusing to allow closing arguments and failing to consider alternatives and exceptions to involuntary commitment. Less than two weeks after Doe initiated the intermediate appeal, his involuntary commitment terminated. Despite concluding that termination of Doe’s involuntary commitment mooted his claims on appeal, the district court determined that the public interest exception to the mootness doctrine applied, addressed the merits of Doe’s appeal, and affirmed the order for commitment.

On appeal from the district court’s intermediate appellate decision, Doe argued that the magistrate court violated due process by failing to make a record of its reasoning and refusing to allow closing argument and abused its discretion by failing to consider exceptions and alternatives to commitment. The Court of Appeals held that the termination of Doe’s involuntary commitment rendered the issues he presented on appeal moot and that he failed to show an exception to the mootness doctrine applied. Consequently, the Court of Appeals dismissed Doe’s appeal as moot.

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