

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State of Idaho v. Adrian Renee Soliz

Docket No. 49848

This case presented an issue of first impression regarding the meaning of the phrase “as a result of” in Idaho’s overdose immunity statute. I.C. § 37-2739C(2). Adrian Renee Soliz appealed a conviction for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use. Under Idaho’s overdose immunity statute, “a person who experiences a drug-related medical emergency and is in need of medical assistance shall not be charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled substance . . . , or for using or possessing with intent to use drug paraphernalia . . . if the evidence for the charge . . . was obtained as a result of the medical emergency and the need for medical assistance.” I.C. § 37-2739C(2). The district court found that immunity did not apply to Soliz because the controlled substance and drug paraphernalia evidence were obtained as a result of Soliz’s driving pattern, which was independent of a drug-related emergency.

On appeal, Soliz argued that because the evidence of his possession charges was obtained as a result of his overdose medical emergency and need for medical assistance, the district court erred as a matter of law when it ruled that the “as a result of” causation element under Idaho Code section 37-2739C(2) was not met. The State countered that Idaho Code section 37-2739C(2) does not apply to this case because the statute calls for immunity from prosecution only when the discovery of evidence is a direct result of a drug-related medical emergency and the need for medical attention, not where the medical emergency and need for medical attention occurred at the same time as a traffic investigation.

The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the district court’s decision denying Soliz’s motion to dismiss. The Court first held that the phrase “as a result of” in the overdose immunity statute means sole cause. Next, the Court concluded that Idaho Code section 37-2739C(2) does not apply to Soliz under the facts of the case because Soliz’s drug overdose and need for medical assistance were not the only cause that, from a legal viewpoint, produced the discovery of the controlled substance and drug paraphernalia; instead, the medical emergency of, at the time, an unknown origin and traffic investigation together produced the discovery of the contraband.

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