

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Adams v. State, Docket No. 41912

This case came to the Idaho Supreme Court on a petition for review from the Court of Appeals. In October 2009, Irwin Ryan Ray Adams lost control of his vehicle while traveling at a high rate of speed and crashed, which resulted in the death of his passenger. Adams was subsequently charged with, and convicted of, felony vehicular manslaughter. Adams then filed a post-conviction petition with the Jerome County district court alleging ineffective assistance of counsel, which the district court summarily dismissed. Adams appealed that dismissal and the Idaho Court of Appeals affirmed. Adams then petitioned this Court for review, asserting there was a genuine issue of fact as to whether he was prejudiced by trial counsel's failure to (1) call his accident reconstruction expert at trial, and (2) investigate and present evidence of his vehicle's mechanical condition.

The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the district court's summary dismissal of Adams's post-conviction petition. The Court held that there was no genuine issue of fact that Adams was prejudiced by trial counsel's failure to call Adams's accident reconstruction expert because the expert's proffered testimony was speculative and conclusory and would have been inadmissible at trial. The Court also held that there was no genuine issue of fact that Adams was prejudiced by trial counsel's failure to investigate and present evidence of Adams's vehicle's mechanical condition because it was not reasonably probable that the evidence would have changed the outcome of the trial. The Court awarded costs to the State.