

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State v. Matthews

Docket No. 45295

In this case, Ryan Kelly Matthews (“Matthews”) appealed his judgment of conviction and sentence entered in Ada County district court. The State cross-appealed based on the district court’s decision not to award the full amount of prosecution costs as part of restitution.

Following Matthews’s arrest for absconding from parole in May 2016, methamphetamine was found on his person during the booking process at Ada County Jail and he was charged with possession of a controlled substance. After having his motion to suppress denied, Matthews agreed to a plea deal and the district court sentenced him to seven years with three years determinate and four years indeterminate. The district court also declined to order the full amount of restitution for prosecution costs under Idaho Code section 37-2732(k) and stated that it agreed with Matthews’s concern that he felt like he was having “to pay for exercising [his] constitutional right.” Matthews timely appealed and contended that the district court abused its discretion in sentencing him. The State timely cross-appealed and argued that the district court abused its discretion by denying the State’s request for prosecution costs given its comment to Matthews.

The Idaho Supreme Court determined that the district court did not abuse its discretion in sentencing Matthews because his sentence was within the statutory limits and reasonable in light of the record before the district court. Likewise, the Court held that the district court did not abuse its discretion by declining to award full restitution of prosecution costs because (1) the district court awarded some prosecution costs under section 37-2732(k) of the Idaho Code and (2) the court’s statement to Matthews was not the sole rationale for its decision. Thus, the district court’s judgment was affirmed.