

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Stanfield v. State

Docket No. 46252

The Idaho Supreme Court vacated in part and affirmed in part a district court order that granted the State's motion for summary disposition of Katherine Lea Stanfield's petition for post-conviction relief. Following the death of a young child in her care, Stanfield was convicted of first-degree murder committed through the aggravated battery and death of a child under twelve years old. After the direct appeal of her conviction, Stanfield petitioned for post-conviction relief. The State moved for summary dismissal of her petition, which the district court granted.

The Supreme Court held that there was a genuine issue of material fact regarding three issues: First, whether Stanfield's lawyers were deficient by not presenting evidence that someone other than Stanfield abused the child. Second, whether Stanfield's lawyers were deficient in not offering expert testimony concerning her emotional state. Third, whether Stanfield's trial lawyers were deficient by not objecting to improper statements made by the prosecutor. Accordingly, the Supreme Court vacated the district court's order and remanded the case.

However, the Supreme Court affirmed the district court's summary dismissal of Stanfield's claim regarding lesser-included offense jury instructions because of the acquittal first rule.