

ORIGINAL

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

STATE OF OHIO

11-0486

vs.

DAJUAN EMERSON

On Appeal from the
Cuyahoga County Court
of Appeals, Eighth Appellate
District

Appeals Case No. 94413

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF JURISDICTION
FOR APPELLANT DAJUAN EMERSON

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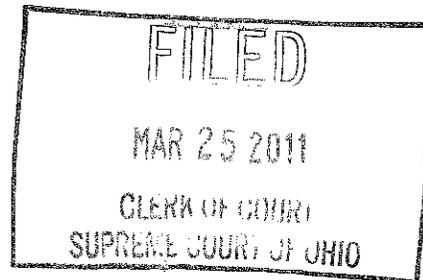


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**EXPLANATION OF WHY THIS CASE IS A CASE OF PUBLIC
OR GREAT GENERAL INTEREST AND INVOLVES A SUBSTANTIAL
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION**

This case presents several important causes including, but not limited to, *an issue of first impression for this court*. The primary issue is whether the government can use a DNA sample that should not have been retained in its database as the grounds to obtain a subsequent search warrant for DNA in another case? Moreover, is the affidavit used to obtain the subsequent search warrant sufficient to establish probable cause when it purports Mr. Emerson as a “convicted felon” – a classification necessary for retaining said DNA sample - when in fact he was previously acquitted? It should be noted that the statutory provisions and/or classifications have recently been amended to include “persons arrested” for felonies. Nevertheless, whether DNA evidence and/or other state database information that should not have been retained can be used in a subsequent criminal investigation is an issue that is apt to be repeated. Additionally, Mr. Emerson has standing to challenge the retention and subsequent use of his own DNA.

The Eight District Court of Appeals began by stating” Appellant raises an issue not previously addressed by appellate court’s in Ohio. Arguing that R.C. 2901.07 and 109.573 do not authorize the continued retention of the DNA profile of one acquitted of a crime, appellant asserts his identification should have been suppressed.” We would argue that the Courts description is partially correct. There are also collateral issues such as the sufficiency of the search warrant affidavit as well as the Mr. Emerson’s privacy interests and/or standing to challenge the search.

While there are several intriguing legal issues presented in this appeal, we recognize that at the heart of this case is a tragic and brutal murder of an innocent woman. She was stabbed approximately 78 times and the struggle went from the upstairs of her home to the downstairs

living room where her body was later found. Blood was found on the walls and floors of several rooms and staircases. Household cleaner was found near the victim and a knife had been cleaned in an apparent attempt to destroy evidence. The woman was a known prostitute and several fingerprints of other forms of identification were found from different males throughout the house – this included a blood stain on a shirt found near the victim’s body that did not belong to Mr. Emerson.

The police had no leads and the case was unsolved for approximately two years. At that time, in a random search, the state obtained a positive DNA profile match from DNA found on the victim’s doorknob to one contained in the State’s DNA database obtained in a 2005 investigation. One problem is that the DNA should not have been kept in the database since Mr. Emerson was acquitted in that case. (In fact, it was later determined that the DNA sample they initially tried to match did not belong to a male so there should have been no collection of any male’s DNA in that case let alone Mr. Emerson’s DNA). We note Mr. Emerson had and has no prior felony record. Nevertheless, neither the Ohio Revised Code nor the CODIS Manual and/or Rules and Regulations permitted the retention of Mr. Emerson’s DNA. He was not a “convicted felon” or a “known suspect” – two classifications within the index. Mr. Emerson’s DNA should have never been retained or subsequently used in a criminal investigation by the State of Ohio.

The Eighth District Court of Appeals sidestepped the issues raised and held that in keeping with Indiana, Maryland, and Georgia state law, since the 2005 DNA sample was lawfully obtained in the initial investigation, the Defendant lost any privacy interest (even though acquitted) and thus lacked standing to make a Fourth Amendment challenge in this case. The Appellate Court noted that although Ohio’s statutory scheme does not specify what should happen to validly obtained samples maintained in a database after acquittal, it felt the onus

should be on the individual – not the State – to remove said sample. “At the very least, the exclusionary rule should not be applied to this case....”.

Moreover, the subsequent affidavit used to obtain Mr. Emerson’s DNA sample (via buccal swab) was insufficient and implies Mr. Emerson was a “convicted felon” and/or “known suspect” – which coincidentally is a class of individuals for whom the state **is able** to store the DNA profiles. It is these classifications which have recently be expanded to include “those arrested on felony charges.” See, R.C. 2901.07. Nevertheless, for purposes of this case, Mr. Emerson was not a convicted felon and not a known suspect. The averment was simply wrong, and without it, the remaining averments are insufficient to establish probable cause. The trial court erred in denying the Motion to Suppress and the appellate court was wrong in affirming it.

The appellate court also erred by affirming the trial court’s denial of the Motion to Suppress as it relates to statements made by Mr. Emerson to the police. After the initial DNA sample match, law enforcement picked up Mr. Emerson as a “suspect” and took him down to the Homicide Unit office at the Justice Center in downtown Cleveland to have an “opportunity to talk with him.” Mr. Emerson was in custody and interrogated without the benefit of being given his Miranda rights. On cross-examination, the Detective acknowledged: 1) that they did not indicate in the police report when the interview with Mr. Emerson began or ended, 2) although they have the ability to record the “statement” at time, it was not done so in this case, 3) although it is common practice to have the individual initial a separate waiver of rights form and each averment in the statement, it was not done in this case, and 4) half way through the statement – typed by the officers – Mr. Emerson refused to continue and refused to answer the last question “[h]aving read this statement, do you find it to be true?” Mr. Emerson refused to adopt the

statement and refused to sign a waiver of his Miranda rights. Yet law enforcement then used said statements to further their investigation.

On appeal, there were also serious issues raised about the sufficiency and manifest weight of the evidence. Specifically, there was simply no evidence upon which Mr. Emerson could be found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of the essential element of “prior calculation and design” and tampering with evidence. Concerning the manifest weight of the evidence, the Court should have considered the Detective’s decision not to DNA test ½ of the other valuable evidence found throughout the house. The fact that DNA from 3 other unknown males was found at the crime scene including DNA on a white shirt found next to the victim on the floor. Finally, the fact that police had several compelling leads but never followed up on them including a man named “Kevin” who was bragging throughout the neighborhood as being the perpetrator. The appellate court erred in finding sufficient evidence to support convictions for aggravated murder and tampering with evidence.

Considering all of the unique facts and circumstances of this case, Mr. Emerson also argued that the trial court should have included a jury instruction for a lesser included charge – especially considering the utter lack of evidence of “prior calculation and design.” Finally, the appellate Court erred in failing to find Mr. Emerson’s trial counsel was ineffective when they failed to specifically request a “Franks hearing” on the sufficiency of the search warrant affidavit. There are clearly mis-statements made in the unusually scant affidavit concerning the “convicted felon” designation of Defendant-appellant. Again, he was previously acquitted. Without the false averments in the affidavit, there would have been no basis for the court to order the buccal swab of Defendant-appellant. Moreover, defense counsel failed to request jury

instructions on a lesser included offense. In these two instances, defense counsel fell below the objective standard of reasonable representation and it clearly had an effect on the outcome.

There was a brutal murder and law enforcement had a “cold case.” Approximately two years later, a random DNA sample search from one fingerprint on a doorknob matched a prior sample provided by Mr. Emerson in 2005. The 2005 sample should have never been retained in the database as Mr. Emerson was acquitted. Law enforcement then conducted an unlawful interrogation of Mr. Emerson and provided a false affidavit to the Court to obtain another DNA sample. When that matched was discovered, their investigation stopped. They ignored numerous DNA samples found near the victim which did not match Mr. Emerson and refused to investigate compelling leads including a man named “Kevin” who bragged about getting away with the murder.

Not only are the facts and circumstances of this case unique, but the issues raised in the Motion to Suppress are issues of first impression in the State of Ohio and call for this Court’s guidance. By accepting jurisdiction, this Court will provide the lower Courts throughout Ohio an analytical framework to use when addressing these and similar claims. For all of these reasons, we respectfully request this Court accept jurisdiction to address these important claims.

STATEMENT OF FACTS AND CASE

On or about March 9, 2009, Defendant-appellant, Dajaun Emerson, was charged with a three count indictment. Count One was for Aggravated Murder in violation of R.C. 2903.01 (an unclassified felony); Count Two was for Aggravated Burglary in violation of R.C. 2911.11(a felony of the first degree); and Count Three for Tampering with Evidence in violation of R.C. 2921.12 (a felony of the third degree).

On October 16, 2009, the trial court began the suppression hearing. The DNA analyst at the Cuyahoga County Coroner's office testified that two swabs of suspected blood on a rear doorknob which was received from the Cleveland Police Department in 2007. The DNA profile was entered into a CODIS database and a "match report" was generated. The next step was to obtain a sample from the suspected individual for comparison purposes. They obtained a search warrant and a sample from Dajaun Emerson, compared it and determined it was a match. On cross-examination, she testified that only certain types of samples are put into the database due to the criteria that is used per the Ohio Revised Code 2901.07.

The next witness called was a forensic scientist working for the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation who maintains the Combined DNA Index System ("CODIS") computer and database. There are different indexes for each level including forensic unknowns, forensic mixtures, known suspects and missing persons. One such index is "convicted felon"

Concerning this case, he testified that a reference standard was submitted from Defendant-appellant on April 8, 2005 concerning a sexual assault case. However, the results were negative in that no male DNA was identified. As such, it was placed into the suspect index. Mr. Emerson was not a "convicted felon" or a "known suspect". On cross-examination, he was asked under what authority he was maintaining the sample – he responded by and through the CODIS Methods manual. Specifically he reviewed two pages of the 80 page manual provided by the prosecutor and testified that a "suspect index could be maintained where the DNA records obtained from the listed suspect of a crime are maintainable at the state level." However, upon closer examination of the two pages (actually indexes), he acknowledged that the suspect must actually be a "known suspect" as declared by the department. He testified that he did not know that Dajuan Emerson was acquitted and no longer a suspect – let alone a "known suspect" in that

case. In fact, he acknowledged that since the 2005 rape kit analysis stated there was no male DNA – they never had to take Mr. Emerson’s DNA in 2005 in the first place. On re-cross, he testified that Mr. Emerson was never notified that his DNA was placed in the CODIS database. As such, he would not have the knowledge necessary to request an expungement after he was acquitted. The State then stipulated that Defendant was not a “known suspect” or listed as a “person of interest.” As argued by defense counsel, for purposes of the loosely termed “DNA retention policy”, an acquitted person is in worse shape than an arrestee.

Also called was the detective who created the search warrant affidavit. He acknowledged that the search warrant affidavit stated that they received a hit from the database from “convicted felons” in the State of Ohio. He then re-phrased his classification of Defendant from a “person of interest” to a “convicted felon”. He testified they considered Defendant to be a “convicted felon” at the time he made his sworn affidavit. He testified that he discovered Defendant was acquitted of the 2005 charge **only after** the CODIS hit and before Defendant’s buccal swab.

The trial court then considered a previously filed Motion to Suppress concerning the statements made by the Mr. Emerson. The Detective testified that when he was notified through the coroner’s office that there was a DNA match for Mr. Emerson, they made arrangements to pick up Mr. Emerson as a “suspect”, and took him down to the Homicide Unit office at the Justice Center in downtown Cleveland to have an “opportunity to talk with him. Half way through the written statement Mr. Emerson refused to continue and refused to answer the last question “[h]aving read this statement, do you find it to be true?” He refused to adopt the statement and never signed waiver of rights by Defendant. The Court erred in denying the Motion to Suppress.

At trial the State introduced testimony establishing that the victim suffered 78 stab wounds on the face, head, neck, trunk, and extremities. The State's witness from the Coroner's office testified they examined only ½ of the exhibits sent for analysis. This included a shirt found near the victim that had blood and seminal stains on it. She submitted it for testing and was not aware that the DNA lab failed to test the stains on the XL shirt. She also acknowledged that after she spoke with the prosecutors, no further testing was performed.

The State's DNA analyst for the Trace Evidence Department of the Coroner's Office testified that the knife found in the kitchen had a mixture of blood with the major contributor for blood/DNA being the victims -- the minor contributor was inconclusive. The knife blade had both the victim and Defendant-appellant's DNA. The knife handle had the victims and an inconclusive result. On cross-examination, she testified that out of approximately 50 items that were sent to the DNA lab, only 25 were tested. This included the white ATN collection T-shirt that was had several swabs that were not tested to determine who was wearing it. The State's next witness was a detective who testified that the white T-shirt that had another male's DNA on it was found next to the body of the victim. Another Detective testified that during the investigation, they had received several tips including one that a man named "Kenny" was bragging about committing the murder. They also learned of several potential suspects with violent histories including a man named Johnny Bailey had previously beaten the victim and broken her bones. Specifically, he twisted her arm behind her back so far that he broke her arm in four places. As a result, he was charged with felonious assault in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. The investigation revealed that the victim had called the victim advocate's hotline stating she was terrified of Johnny Bailey and that he was threatening and intimidating her. Later police were informed that the crime scene had been entered despite the coroner's seal on the

door. They received a call stating that a bloody towel was in the garbage can in the backyard. The detective also testified that a landlord, Mr. Bozak, told them that a tenant, Mr. Bruton, had a relationship with the victim and was a registered sex offender. When police came to question Mr. Bruton, he fled the scene.

After the introduction of the exhibits, Defense counsel made its Crim.R. 29 Motion for Acquittal. The Court granted the Motion for Acquittal as it relates to Count Two – aggravated burglary. The Court denied the Motion as to Counts One and Three. After the defense rested, the Court then proceeded with jury instructions. On October 21, 2009, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty as to Count One – Aggravated Murder, and guilty as to Court Three – Tampering with Evidence. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with parole eligibility after 25 years on Count One and one year concurrent on Count Three. (Tr. 779). Mr. Emerson timely filed his appeal. On February 10, 2011, the Eighth District Court of Appeals affirmed the judgment of the trial court.

ARGUMENT

Proposition of Law No. I: When DNA is obtained by the state in an investigation which results in the acquittal of the individual, that individual maintains standing to challenge the improper retention and subsequent use of his/her DNA in a subsequent proceeding.

Under the Fourth Amendment, the standing and search and seizure inquiries “merge into one: whether governmental officials violated any legitimate expectation of privacy help by petitioner.” See Rawlings v. Kentucky (1980), 448 U.S. 98, 106, 65 L.Ed.2d 633. In finding Mr. Emerson had no standing to make his Fourth Amendment challenge, the appellate court noted that “society does not recognize an expectation of privacy in records made for public purposes from legitimately obtained samples.” Smith v. State of Indiana (2001), 744 N.E. 2d 437.

However, the appellate court erred in finding the CODIS database to be a “public record.” Under this logic, any individual would be able to access any other individual DNA samples obtained in a criminal investigation – this is simply not the case. The fact that the sample was legally obtained does not mean that it is a “record made for public purposes.” In fact, the privacy implications are demonstrated by the need to obtain a search warrant before taking anyone’s DNA. The appellate court erred in finding Mr. Emerson lacked standing to challenge the retention and use of his DNA held in the State’s CODIS system database.

Proposition of Law No. II: The State of Ohio does not have the authority to retain and/or subsequently use the DNA taken from an individual during a criminal investigation when that individual is acquitted of that crime.

Pursuant to section 17.60 (page 70) of the CODIS Manual, the DNA record/profile taken of Defendant-appellant in 2005 should have been removed since there was an acquittal. Moreover, under R.C. 109.573 and 2901.07, the State had no authority to maintain and subsequently use the DNA record/profile. That is why the State of Ohio recently amended said statutory law in Senate Bill 77 to *include* maintaining the DNA record/profile for “arrested person.” We note that said amendment does not apply retroactively.

The trial court erred when it denied said motion ruling finding “the State has the authority under 109.573.” However, neither R.C. 109.573 nor any other statute provides for the retention of DNA samples from persons who were acquitted of crimes. While other categories of individuals exist such as “missing persons” and “convicted felons,” Mr. Emerson does not qualify under any of these categories.

Again, in this case, the random search in the database should never have been conducted because not only was the search warrant affidavit defective, but Defendant-appellant was not a “convicted felon” or “person of interest” on the case. His sample was improperly retained in the

database AFTER he was acquitted in 2005 and the State is prohibited from using said DNA under these facts and circumstances.

Proposition of Law No. III: A search warrant affidavit seeking a DNA buccal swab is insufficient to establish probable cause if it is based primarily upon the individual's classification as a "convicted felon" and/or a "known suspect" as set forth in R.C. 2907.01, when the individual is neither.

To attack the veracity of a facially sufficient affidavit, a defendant must show by a preponderance of the evidence that the affiant made a false statement either "intentionally or with reckless disregard for the truth." State v. Taylor (2007), 174 Ohio App.3d 477. In this case, the search warrant affidavit is defective in that it implies Mr. Emerson is a "convicted felon" and/or a "known suspect" Mr. Emerson was neither. Moreover, the detective that he discovered Mr. Emerson was acquitted of the 2005 charge **only after** the CODIS hit but before Defendant's buccal swab. If that was the case, he knew that he was acquitted and the affidavit was inaccurate prior to the seizure of Mr. Emerson's DNA. For these reasons, the search warrant should have never been obtained and the DNA profile should never have been maintained in the DNA database for purposes of comparison.

Proposition of Law No. IV: After an individual refuses to sign and written statement and/or acknowledge that his prior statements were truthful, the statements and all evidence derived from said statements must be suppressed.

Evidence is inadmissible when it is attained without the invocation of the defendant's rights under Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436, 16 L. Ed. 2d 694, 86 S. Ct. 1602 (1966), when a suspect is in custody and is subject to interrogation. Questions of Miranda violations are reviewed de novo. United States v. Montano, 613 F.2d 147, 149 (6th Cir. 1980). However, whether a defendant was at any point, subject to interrogation, is a fact issue reviewed for clear error. United States v. Clark, 982 F.2d 965, 968 (6th Cir. 1993).

In this case, the Detective picked up Defendant as a “suspect”, and took him down to the Homicide Unit office at the Justice Center in downtown Cleveland and had an “opportunity to talk with him.” On cross-examination, although he stated he verbally informed him of his Miranda rights, the Detective acknowledged that they did not indicate in the police report when the interview with Defendant began or ended. He further testified that although they have the ability to record the “statement” at time, it was not done so in this case. He further agreed that although it is common practice to have the individual initial a separate waiver of rights form and each averment in the statement, it was not done in this case. Finally, the Detective testified that half way through the statement – typed by the officers - Defendant refused to continue and refused to answer the last question “[h]aving read this statement, do you find it to be true?” He refused to adopt the statement. Nowhere in the discovery materials is a signed waiver of rights by Defendant. Under these facts and circumstances, the trial court erred and/or abused its discretion in denying the Motion to Suppress Defendant’s “statements.”

Proposition of Law No. V: Mere presence at a crime scene, without more, is insufficient evidence to establish prior calculation and design beyond a reasonable doubt.

In State v. Jenks (1991), 61 Ohio St.3d 259, 273, 574 N.E.2d 492, the Ohio Supreme Court set forth the test an appellate court should apply when reviewing the sufficiency of the evidence to support a conviction:

The relevant inquiry on appeal is whether any reasonable trier of fact could have found the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. In other words, an appellate court's function when reviewing the sufficiency of the evidence is to examine the evidence admitted at trial to determine whether such evidence, if believed, would convince the average mind of the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. State v. Eley [(1978), 56 Ohio St.2d 169, 383 N.E.2d 132]. Jackson v. Virginia (1979), 443 U.S. 307, 61 L. Ed. 2d 560, 99 S. Ct. 2781.

In this case, “prior calculation and design” is an essential element of the charge. Here there is simply no evidence upon which Defendant could be found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of the essential element of “prior calculation and design.” Everything was circumstantial and/or based upon inferences. The horrible crime scene itself indicates a lack of planning. First the victim struggled and was not bound and/or taken by surprise as evidenced by the defensive stab wounds. Simply stated the crime scene indicates a fit of rage or at best – momentary consideration - as opposed to a scheme or design to carry out a calculated decision. Additionally, there was the botched cover up with the cleaner being found near the body and again, blood found throughout the house. Everything indicates a sudden and uncontrollable attack and then a confused perpetrator, not “prior calculation and design”. The same arguments apply to the charge of tampering with evidence. For these reasons, we respectfully argue that the state failed to meet its burden in establishing beyond a reasonable doubt the essential element of “prior calculation and design” and/or tampering with evidence.

Proposition of Law No. VI: A jury verdict is against the manifest weight of the evidence when prior calculation and design and tampering with evidence is based solely upon an individual’s presence at the crime scene.

Although a verdict is supported by sufficient evidence, a court of appeals may nevertheless conclude that the verdict is against the manifest weight of the evidence. State v. Banks (1992), 78 Ohio App. 3d 206, 214. The court, reviewing the entire record, weighs the evidence and all reasonable inferences, considers the credibility of witnesses and determines whether in resolving conflicts in the evidence, the jury clearly lost its way and created such a miscarriage of justice that the conviction must be reversed and a new trial ordered. State v. Thompkins (1997), 78 Ohio St. 3d 380, 389. Id. at 387.

Here, we reiterate and incorporate the argument set forth above concerning prior calculation and design and ask this Court to consider said evidence or lack thereof under this different standard. In doing so we also ask this Court to consider other factors such as the decision not to DNA test ½ of the other valuable evidence found throughout the house. The fact that DNA from 3 other unknown males was found at the crime scene including DNA on a white shirt found next to the victim on the floor. The fact that the victim was a prostitute which would expose her to a number of potential suspects.

Finally, we ask this Court to consider the fact that the police had several compelling leads but never truly followed up on them including a man named “Kenny” was bragging about stabbing the victim to death. Other potential perpetrators were named but the most interesting was Johnny Bailey, the victim’s former boyfriend who threatened her in the past and had previously broken her arm in four places. Considering all of the evidence and lack thereof, it is clear that the jury lost its way.

Proposition of Law No. VII: A trial Court abuses its discretion in failing to provide a lesser included offense instruction when prior calculation and design is based solely upon circumstantial evidence and inferences.

If under any reasonable view of the evidence it is possible for the trier of fact to find the defendant guilty of the inferior-degree offense and to acquit on the greater offense, the instruction on the inferior-degree offense should be given. In making this determination, the court must construe all the evidence in the light most favorable to the defendant. State v. Deem (1988), 40 Ohio St.3d 205.

In this case, the trial court abused its discretion in denying the request for the lesser included offense. There is no dispute that a purposeful murder was committed. However, as stated above, all of the evidence suggests a lack of “prior calculation and design.” In fact, the

evidence reasonably suggests a finding of sudden fit or rage. There can be no serious dispute that the trial court should have provided the lesser included instruction and abused its discretion.

Proposition of Law No. VIII: Ineffective assistance of counsel is established when defense counsel fails to request a Franks Hearing concerning the sufficiency of a search warrant affidavit based solely upon improper statutory classifications and when it fails to request a lesser included offense charge when prior calculation and design is based solely upon the Defendant's presence.

In State v. Bradley (1989), 42 Ohio St. 3d 136, 538 N.E.2d 373, the Ohio Supreme Court discussed the charge of ineffective assistance of counsel and held that counsel's performance will not be deemed ineffective unless it is proven to fall below an objective standard of reasonable representation and that the defendant was prejudiced by counsel's deficient performance.

A complete review of the record indicates the Defendant was not afforded the effective assistance of counsel in two areas. First, counsel failed to specifically request a "Franks hearing" on the sufficiency of the search warrant affidavit. There are clearly mis-statements made in the unusually scant affidavit concerning the "convicted felon" designation of Defendant-appellant. Again, he was acquitted. If the affidavit would have indicated the truth, there would be no basis for a finding of probable cause the court to order the buccal swab of Defendant-appellant. Moreover, counsel failed to request a jury instruction on a lesser included offense. In these two instances, defense counsel fell below the objective standard of reasonable representation and it clearly have had an effect on the outcome of the trial. Accordingly, Defendant-appellant was denied the effective assistance of counsel.

CONCLUSION

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request this Court accept jurisdiction on this case of first impression and address all of the raised herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing motion was served via ordinary U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this 24th day of March 2011 to: William Mason and/or Member of Staff, 1200 Ontario Street, Justice Center (9th floor), Cleveland, Ohio 44113



Brian Moriarty

APPENDIX

REQUEST PUBLICATION

Court of Appeals of Ohio

EIGHTH APPELLATE DISTRICT
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA

JOURNAL ENTRY AND OPINION
No. 94413

STATE OF OHIO

PLAINTIFF-APPELLEE

vs.

DAJUAN C. EMERSON

DEFENDANT-APPELLANT

**JUDGMENT:
AFFIRMED**

Criminal Appeal from the
Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas
Case No. CR-521612-A

BEFORE: Celebrezze, P.J., Sweeney, J., and Gallagher, J.

RELEASED AND JOURNALIZED: February 10, 2011

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**FILED AND JOURNALIZED
PER APP.R. 22(C)**

FEB 10 2011

**GERALD E. FUERST
CLERK OF THE COURT OF APPEALS
BY G. Fuerst DEP.**

FRANK D. CELEBREZZE, JR., J.:

Appellant, Dajuan Emerson, challenges his convictions for aggravated murder and tampering with evidence. Raising five assignments of error, appellant argues that his DNA¹ profile was impermissibly included in a state DNA database, that his convictions are against the sufficiency and manifest weight of the evidence, that his statements made to the police during interrogation should have been suppressed, and that defense counsel was constitutionally deficient. After a thorough review of the record and law, we affirm.

On July 4, 2007, the Cleveland police responded to the home of Marnie Macon on Elton Road in Cleveland, Ohio. Officers found Macon stabbed to death and naked from the waist down. The police began the task of collecting evidence, including a knife, a beer can, and samples from a spot of blood found on a door knob inside the home. The police also noted a bottle of household cleaner laying on or near the victim and evidence that the knife as well as the victim's body had been cleaned in an apparent attempt to destroy evidence.

The case remained unsolved until 2009 when a positive DNA profile match from the bloody doorknob to one contained in the state DNA database led the Cleveland police to bring appellant in for questioning. When questioned about

¹ Deoxyribonucleic acid.

his familiarity with the Elton Road home, he denied ever having been there. However, once he learned of the DNA evidence, he said that he had been there on July 3 or 4, 2007, after he had met a woman at a bar and paid her money for sex, but he left her unharmed. Officers prepared a written statement for appellant to sign detailing this discussion, but appellant refused to sign.

Appellant was indicted by a Cuyahoga County grand jury on charges of aggravated murder in violation of R.C. 2903.01, aggravated burglary in violation of R.C. 2911.11, and tampering with evidence in violation of R.C. 2921.12. He filed a motion to suppress his statements to the police and a supplementary motion seeking to suppress his DNA identification. On October 16, 2009, the trial court held a hearing on these motions. The evidence presented at the hearing demonstrated that, as a result of a 2005 rape investigation, a sample of appellant's DNA was lawfully obtained and entered into the state DNA database as a known suspect. Appellant was tried and acquitted of those 2005 charges, but his DNA profile remained in the state database.

Then, in 2009, a DNA profile was obtained from the blood left on the doorknob inside Macon's home. This profile of an unknown individual was entered into the state database and matched appellant's profile obtained from the 2005 investigation. Appellant argues that the statutory scheme establishing the state database did not allow for the retention of records of acquitted

individuals, and therefore, the identification and everything flowing therefrom must be suppressed. The trial court determined that the state had the authority to maintain the records and denied appellant's motion to suppress the DNA identification and his statements to the police.

A jury trial commenced on October 19, 2009 and resulted in appellant being found guilty of aggravated murder and tampering with evidence. The trial court dismissed the charge of aggravated burglary pursuant to appellant's Crim.R. 29 motion. Appellant was sentenced to an aggregate prison term of 25 years-to-life on November 18, 2009.² Appellant now timely appeals, citing five assignments of error.

Law and Analysis

Appellant first argues that "[t]he trial court erred and/or abused its discretion when it denied [his] motion to suppress." Within this assigned error are two issues: the first deals with the retention of appellant's DNA profile in the state database following his acquittal in 2005; the second deals with the voluntary waiver of his Miranda rights when giving a statement to the Cleveland police.

² Appellant was sentenced to a term of incarceration of life with parol eligibility after 25 years for the unclassified aggravated murder conviction and a concurrent term of incarceration of one year for tampering with evidence.

The Retention of DNA Records

Appellant raises an issue not previously addressed by appellate courts in Ohio. Arguing that R.C. 2901.07 and 109.573 do not authorize the continued retention of the DNA profile of one acquitted of a crime, appellant asserts his identification should have been suppressed.

“In a motion to suppress, the trial court assumes the role of trier of fact and is in the best position to resolve questions of fact and evaluate witness credibility. A reviewing court is bound to accept those findings of fact if supported by competent, credible evidence. However, without deference to the trial court’s conclusion, it must be determined independently whether, as a matter of law, the facts meet the appropriate legal standard.” (Internal citations omitted.) *State v. Curry* (1994), 95 Ohio App.3d 93, 96, 641 N.E.2d 1172.

The Combined DNA Index System (“CODIS”) “is a computerized program designed to house DNA profiles from convicted offenders, forensic samples, suspects, missing persons, unidentified remains and relatives of missing persons in various searchable databases.” Baringer, *CODIS Methods Manual* (Rev. 5 2009), 3. These profiles are generated using DNA samples that are processed to create a DNA profile unique to the individual.³ CODIS has three levels — local, state, and national, with the Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office controlling the

³ Except, possibly, in the case of identical twins.

local database, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (“BCI”) controlling the state database, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation maintaining the federal database. *Id.* Former R.C. 2901.07, as it existed prior to its amendment in 2010, authorized the creation and maintenance of a DNA profile database populated with DNA profiles from convicted persons. Current R.C. 2901.07 adds authority to collect and store the profiles of those arrested on felony charges as well as those convicted of a felony. R.C. 2901.07(B)(1). R.C. 109.573 is a similar statute dealing with records from “forensic casework or from crime scenes, specimens from anonymous and unidentified sources[,]” and missing persons and their relatives. All 50 states have such legislation. *State v. Gaines*, Cuyahoga App. No. 91179, 2009-Ohio-622, ¶58.

A DNA profile is a record separate and distinct from the DNA sample from which it is created. Therefore, we must address the state’s contention that appellant lacks standing to challenge the search. More specifically, the state alleges that appellant has no ownership interest in the DNA profile created from his validly collected DNA sample. “Under Fourth Amendment law, the standing and search and seizure inquiries ‘merge into one: whether governmental officials violated any legitimate expectation of privacy held by petitioner.’ *Rawlings v. Kentucky*, 448 U.S. 98, 106, 100 S.Ct. 2556, 65 L.Ed.2d 633 (1980). Fourth Amendment rights are personal and may not be vicariously asserted. *Rakas v.*

Illinois, 439 U.S. 128, 133-34, 99 S.Ct. 421, 58 L.Ed.2d 387 (1978).” *Smith v. State* (Ind. 2001), 744 N.E.2d 437, 439.

In *Smith*, a defendant challenged a DNA search and match involving Indiana’s DNA database using a DNA profile that remained in the state database after acquittal of the crimes for which the sample was taken. The Indiana Supreme Court ruled that the trial court properly denied a motion to suppress based on the Fourth Amendment because the sample was lawfully obtained during the first investigation. That court held, “once DNA is used to create a profile, the profile becomes the property of the Crime Lab. Thus, [a defendant] had no possessory or ownership interest in it. Nor does society recognize an expectation of privacy in records made for public purposes from legitimately obtained samples.” *Id.* at 439. See, also, *State v. Barkley* (2001), 144 N.C.App. 514, 519, 551 S.E.2d 131 (“It is also clear that once a person’s blood sample has been obtained lawfully, he can no longer assert either privacy claims or unreasonable search and seizure arguments with respect to the use of that sample. Privacy concerns are no longer relevant once the sample has already lawfully been removed from the body, and the scientific analysis of a sample does not involve any further search and seizure of a defendant’s person.”).

Analogizing the taking of a DNA sample with the taking of fingerprints, this court has previously noted that a convicted individual’s privacy interest in

these identifying records is particularly weak. *Gaines*, supra, at ¶58, citing *In re Nicholson* (1999), 132 Ohio App.3d 303, 724 N.E.2d 1217, and *Davis v. Mississippi* (1969), 394 U.S. 721, 89 S.Ct. 1394, 22 L.Ed.2d 676.

The state also sees similarity in a Georgia appellate case, *Fortune v. State* (2009), 300 Ga.App. 550, 685 S.E.2d 466, and argues that its analysis and holding should apply here. In *Fortune*, a DNA sample was collected from seminal fluid found on carpeting at a crime scene, and a DNA profile was prepared and entered into Georgia's state database. This DNA profile of an unknown individual was entered into the federal CODIS database and labeled with a Georgia criminal case number related to the crime. This criminal case number and related information showed that Fortune was the main suspect and was tried and acquitted in that case. Later, a DNA profile obtained from lip balm found at a crime scene involving a separate criminal investigation was matched to the unknown DNA profile generated from the sample collected from the carpet stain. *Id.* at 554. However, because this profile contained a criminal case number that identified Fortune, he argued that it was not of an "unknown" individual and should have been purged from the database after his acquittal. The Georgia appellate court noted that the defendant could have requested expungement of the criminal records from the first case pursuant to Georgia's

expungement statute. The expungement statute is similar to Ohio's statutory scheme.

Like Georgia's DNA collection statutes, Ohio's scheme does not specify what should happen to validly obtained samples maintained in the database after acquittal. Citing *Smith*, supra, the *Fortune* court declined to adopt an exclusionary rule in the case, noting that "[e]xclusion of extremely valuable evidence in crimes that often leave little other trace is a major social cost,' and 'the potential for abuse in the future is not sufficiently clear to warrant adopting a rule excluding evidence from the database on the ground that it was obtained or retained beyond the authorized classifications.'" Id. at 556, quoting *Smith*, at 440.

Citing to Section 17.60 of the CODIS Manual, appellant claims the record should have been removed. However, this section dealing with expungement does not require removal of records after acquittal. Had appellant desired records of this earlier unsuccessful prosecution to be expunged, he could have requested expungement, and then any DNA profile would have been removed pursuant to this section. Although not clear, Ohio appears to place the onus of removal from the state database on those acquitted of a crime. At the very least, the exclusionary rule should not be applied to this case where the DNA profile was validly obtained from the first case, appellant had no possessory or privacy

interest in the profile, and the federal CODIS regulations offer a significant deterrent in the form of exclusion from the federal database. See *Smith* at 440.

Here, because appellant has no possessory interest in his DNA profile generated from a lawfully obtained DNA sample, he lacks standing to challenge the later CODIS records search as a violation of his Fourth Amendment rights. This view is also shared by Maryland. See *Williamson v. State* (2010), 413 Md. 521, 993 A.2d 626.

Appellant also argues that the search warrant issued to obtain a sample of appellant's DNA used to confirm the match already obtained from the CODIS system was defective and should also result in the exclusion of the evidence.

Detective Joseph Chojnowski testified at the suppression hearing that he received a report of a DNA profile match from the Cuyahoga County Coroner's office. He then applied for and received a search warrant to obtain a DNA sample from appellant via buccal swab. Appellant argued this warrant was defective because the attached affidavit described CODIS as a "database that stores sample DNA from convicted felons in the State of Ohio." In reality, CODIS stores DNA profiles from several classes of individuals, including convicted felons.

"An affidavit supporting a search warrant enjoys a presumption of validity. To successfully attack the veracity of a facially sufficient affidavit, a

defendant must show by a preponderance of the evidence that the affiant made a false statement either 'intentionally or with a reckless disregard for the truth.' 'Reckless disregard' means that the affiant had serious doubts about an allegation's truth. Further, even if the affidavit contains false statements made intentionally or recklessly, a warrant based on the affidavit is still valid unless, 'with the affidavit's false material set to one side, the affidavit's remaining content is insufficient to establish probable cause * * *.'" *State v. Taylor*, 174 Ohio App.3d 477, 482, 2007-Ohio-7066, 882 N.E.2d 945.

Here, if the statement is removed, the warrant still establishes probable cause to compel a DNA sample to confirm the match obtained from a search of the CODIS system. This warrant was not invalid.

The trial court ruled that the state had authority to collect and retain appellant's DNA profile under R.C. 109.573. The court also indicated that the sample obtained by Det. Chojnowski was taken in good faith. While the language used in R.C. 109.573, which allows for collection and storage of DNA profiles from "forensic casework," may be so broad as to encompass the facts before us, appellant lacks standing to challenge the search as violative of his Fourth Amendment right, and the exclusionary rule should not be applied to this case even if the DNA database search was beyond the scope of the statute.

Miranda Violation

Appellant also argued in his suppression motions that his statements made to the Cleveland police during an interview should be suppressed, and the trial court erred in not so holding. "Pursuant to *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966), 384 U.S. 436, 444, 86 S.Ct. 1602, 16 L.Ed.2d 694, statements 'stemming from custodial interrogation of the defendant' must be suppressed unless the defendant had been informed of his Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights before being questioned. 'Custodial interrogation' means 'questioning initiated by law enforcement officers after a person has been taken into custody or otherwise deprived of his freedom of action in any significant way.' *Id.*" *State v. Preztak*, 181 Ohio App.3d 106, 2009-Ohio-621, 907 N.E.2d 1254, ¶23. "The State bears the burden of establishing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the defendant knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waived his Miranda rights based on the totality of the circumstances surrounding the investigation. *State v. Gumm* (1995), 73 Ohio St.3d 413, 429, 653 N.E.2d 253." *Id.* at ¶26, quoting *State v. Williams*, Cuyahoga App. No. 82094, 2003-Ohio-4811, ¶12.

With regard to the suppression of appellant's oral statements made to the police officers, Det. Chojnowski testified that he and another officer interviewed appellant without recording the interview. However, Det. Chojnowski did type the statements appellant made. During the interview, appellant requested

counsel and the interview ceased. Appellant refused to sign the typed statement. The first thing evidenced in the statement was that appellant was read his Miranda rights and voluntarily waived them. Det. Chojnowski testified that appellant was read his Miranda rights and voluntarily waived them. He also testified that the standard Miranda warnings were posted in large font on the wall appellant was facing for the entire duration of the interview. From the entirety of the evidence offered on this issue,⁴ the trial court did not err in finding that appellant validly waived his Miranda rights and voluntarily gave the Cleveland police an oral statement.

Sufficiency and Manifest Weight

In his second and third assignments of error, appellant argues that “[t]he guilty verdict is based upon insufficient evidence[,]” and “[t]he guilty verdicts are against the manifest weight of the evidence.”

Whether the evidence is legally sufficient to sustain a verdict is a question of law. *State v. Robinson* (1955), 162 Ohio St. 486, 124 N.E.2d 148. A conviction based on legally insufficient evidence constitutes a denial of due process. *Tibbs*

⁴ Appellant never claimed in his written suppression motion or at the suppression hearing that he was not read his Miranda rights, but that he did not knowingly and voluntarily waive them. The fact that appellant invoked his right to counsel indicates that appellant was made aware of these rights at the time of interrogation.

v. Florida (1982), 457 U.S. 31, 45, 102 S.Ct. 2211, 72 L.Ed.2d 652, citing *Jackson v. Virginia* (1979), 443 U.S. 307, 99 S.Ct. 2781, 61 L.Ed.2d 560.

Where there is substantial evidence upon which the trier of fact has based its verdict, a reviewing court abuses its discretion in substituting its judgment for that of the trier of fact as to the weight and sufficiency of the evidence. *State v. Nicely* (1988), 39 Ohio St.3d 147, 156, 529 N.E.2d 1236.

The weight to be given the evidence and the credibility of the witnesses are primarily for the trier of fact to determine. *State v. DeHass* (1967), 10 Ohio St.2d 230, 231, 227 N.E.2d 212. On review, the appellate court must determine, after viewing the evidence in a light most favorable to the prosecution, whether any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime proven beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Jenks* (1991), 61 Ohio St.3d 259, 273, 574 N.E.2d 492; *Jackson v. Virginia* (1979), 443 U.S. 307, 99 S.Ct. 2781, 61 L.Ed.2d 560.

Sufficiency of the evidence is subjected to a different standard than is manifest weight of the evidence. Article IV, Section 3(B)(3) of the Ohio Constitution authorizes appellate courts to assess the weight of the evidence independently of the factfinder. Thus, when a claim is assigned concerning the manifest weight of the evidence, an appellate court "has the authority and duty to weigh the evidence and to determine whether the findings of * * * the trier of

facts were so against the weight of the evidence as to require a reversal and a remanding of the case for retrial." *State ex rel. Squire v. Cleveland* (1948), 150 Ohio St. 303, 345, 82 N.E.2d 709.

The United States Supreme Court recognized the distinction in considering a claim based upon the manifest weight of the evidence as opposed to sufficiency of that evidence. The court held in *Tibbs*, supra, that, unlike a reversal based upon the insufficiency of the evidence, an appellate court's disagreement with the jurors' weighing of the evidence does not require special deference accorded verdicts of acquittal, i.e., invocation of the double jeopardy clause as a bar to relitigation. *Id.* at 43. Upon application of the standards enunciated in *Tibbs*, the court in *State v. Martin* (1983), 20 Ohio App.3d 172, 485 N.E.2d 717, has set forth the proper test to be utilized when addressing the issue of manifest weight of the evidence. The *Martin* court stated:

"The court, reviewing the entire record, weighs the evidence and all reasonable inferences, considers the credibility of witnesses and determines whether in resolving conflicts in the evidence, the jury clearly lost its way and created such a manifest miscarriage of justice that the conviction must be reversed and a new trial ordered." *Id.* at 720.

Aggravated murder, as it relates to this case, prohibits purposely, and with prior calculation and design, causing the death of another. R.C. 2903.01(A).

Appellant argues there was no evidence that he acted with prior calculation and design. “The section employs the phrase, ‘prior calculation and design,’ to indicate studied care in planning or analyzing the means of the crime, as well as a scheme compassing the death of the victim. Neither the degree of care nor the length of time the offender takes to ponder the crime beforehand are critical factors in themselves, but they must amount to more than momentary deliberation.” See *State v. Keenan*, 81 Ohio St.3d 133, 157, 1998-Ohio-459, 689 N.E.2d 929. “Prior calculation and design requires something more than instantaneous deliberation. However, prior calculation and design can be found even when the killer quickly conceived and executed the plan to kill ‘within a few minutes.’ It is not required that a prolonged thought process be present. There is no bright line test to determine whether prior calculation and design are present, rather each case must be decided on a case-by-case basis.” (Internal citations omitted.) *State v. Torres*, Cuyahoga App. No. 86530, 2006-Ohio-3696, ¶46.

“Some of the important factors to be examined and considered in deciding whether a homicide was committed with prior calculation and design include: whether the accused knew the victim prior to the crime, as opposed to a random meeting, and if the victim was known to him whether the relationship had been strained; whether thought and preparation were given by the accused to the

weapon he used to kill and/or the site on which the homicide was to be committed as compared to no such thought or preparation; and *whether the act was drawn out over a period of time as against an almost instantaneous eruption of events*. These factors must be considered and weighed together and viewed under the totality of all circumstances of the homicide.” (Emphasis added.) *State v. Jenkins* (1976), 48 Ohio App.2d 99, 102, 355 N.E.2d 825, citing *State v. Channer* (1926), 115 Ohio St. 350, 154 N.E. 728; *State v. Manago* (1974), 38 Ohio St.2d 223, 313 N.E.2d 10.

In *Torres*, we held that a “jury could find prior calculation and design, necessary for an aggravated murder conviction, based on the protracted nature of the murders.” *Id.* at ¶47. In that case, two people were discovered stabbed and bludgeoned to death in the basement of a home. One body contained 37 stab wounds and blunt force trauma to the head, and the other had 20 stab wounds and blunt force trauma. In the present case, the victim was stabbed 74 times including several defensive wounds.

In *State v. Jones*, Cuyahoga App. No. 88134, 2007-Ohio-1301, ¶38, this court found sufficient evidence of prior calculation and design, noting the victim “suffered over twenty-five blows. Further, it is clear from the gruesome crime scene that [the victim’s] beating occurred throughout the entire house. The massive amount of blood in several rooms of the house indicate that [the

victim's] murder was not a single, isolated event, but rather an elongated, deliberate attack. Jones used several different weapons throughout his attack on [the victim] and carried the attack through several different rooms of the house. It is also apparent that the attack took place over time and was not instantaneous, since Jones took the time to drag [the victim] through several rooms of the home, strip off the majority of his clothing, urinate on him, and then dump the contents of a mop bucket on him." (Internal citations omitted.)

Similar events took place in this case. The attack was protracted, occurring in several rooms of the victim's home. Also significant was the testimony of the coroner, Dr. Daniel Galita, indicating that the victim survived for as long as an hour after the stab wounds were inflicted, but was unable to move because her spinal cord had been damaged. While the victim lay bleeding to death, appellant was cleaning her body and the murder weapon. Sufficient evidence exists in the record to allow a jury to determine that appellant acted with prior calculation and design.

Appellant also argues that there was no evidence that he tampered with evidence. R.C. 2921.12(A)(1) criminalizes the alteration, destruction, concealment, or removal of any thing "with purpose to impair its value or availability as evidence in [a] proceeding" by one "knowing that an official proceeding or investigation is in progress, or is about to be or likely to be

instituted, * * * [.]” Here, there is significant evidence that appellant attempted to sanitize the crime scene in an effort to hinder investigation. An empty bottle of cleaning solution was found next to the victim’s body. The coroner’s report and testimony also noted the victim’s body had been cleaned with a household cleaning product. The knife collected at the scene, believed to be the murder weapon, also had been cleaned. This demonstrates that sufficient evidence existed to convict appellant of tampering with evidence.

Appellant’s convictions are also not against the manifest weight of the evidence. Appellant’s blood, along with the blood of the victim, was found on the knife believed to be the murder weapon. Appellant’s DNA was also found on a beverage can, and his blood was on an interior doorknob in victim’s home. Appellant admitted to being at the victim’s home around the time of her killing after first denying ever having visiting her there. While several other DNA samples collected from the crime scene were not matches to appellant, the sample collected from the knife was a match. Appellant has failed to convince this court that a manifest miscarriage of justice has occurred in this case. Therefore, this assignment of error is overruled.

Jury Instructions

Appellant also claims that “[t]he trial court abused its discretion in failing to give jury instructions for a lesser included offense.”

“When reviewing a trial court’s jury instructions, the proper standard of review for an appellate court is whether the trial court’s refusal to give a requested instruction or giving an instruction constituted an abuse of discretion under the facts and circumstances of the case. See *State v. Wolons* (1989), 44 Ohio St.3d 64, 68, 541 N.E.2d 443. In addition, jury instructions are reviewed in their entirety to determine if they contain prejudicial error. *State v. Porter* (1968), 14 Ohio St.2d 10, 235 N.E.2d 520.” *State v. Williams*, Cuyahoga App. No. 90845, 2009-Ohio-2026, ¶ 50.

Here, appellant agreed to the jury instructions as proposed by the trial court and never requested a lesser-included-offense instruction. Appellant has waived all but plain error. *State v. Underwood* (1983), 3 Ohio St.3d 12, 444 N.E.2d 1332, at the syllabus. Plain error “should be applied with utmost caution and should be invoked only to prevent a clear miscarriage of justice.” *Id.* at 14. Plain error exists only where it is clear that the verdict would have been otherwise but for the error. *State v. Long* (1978), 53 Ohio St.2d 91, 372 N.E.2d 804.

We find no error in the jury charge here. A trial court must charge the jury on a lesser included offense “only where the evidence presented at trial would reasonably support both an acquittal on the crime charged and a conviction upon the lesser included offense.” *State v. Thomas* (1988), 40 Ohio

St.3d 213, 216, 533 N.E.2d 286. Here, there is no dearth of evidence that would support an acquittal. Therefore, the trial court did not err in not sua sponte giving an instruction on a lesser included offense. This assignment of error is overruled.

Ineffective Assistance of Counsel

Finally, appellant argues that he was "denied effective assistance of counsel." In order to substantiate a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, the appellant is required to demonstrate that: 1) the performance of defense counsel was seriously flawed and deficient; and 2) the result of appellant's trial or legal proceeding would have been different had defense counsel provided proper representation. *Strickland v. Washington* (1984), 466 U.S. 668, 104 S.Ct. 2052, 80 L.Ed.2d 674; *State v. Brooks* (1986), 25 Ohio St.3d 144, 495 N.E.2d 407.

In reviewing a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, it *must* be presumed that a properly licensed attorney executes his legal duty in an ethical and competent manner. *State v. Smith* (1985), 17 Ohio St.3d 98, 477 N.E.2d 1128; *Vaughn v. Maxwell* (1965), 2 Ohio St.2d 299, 209 N.E.2d 164.

The Ohio Supreme Court held in *State v. Bradley* (1989), 42 Ohio St.3d 136, 141-142, 538 N.E.2d 373, that, "[w]hen considering an allegation of ineffective assistance of counsel, a two-step process is usually employed. First, there must be a determination as to whether there has been a substantial

violation of any of defense counsel's essential duties to his client. Next, and analytically separate from the question of whether the defendant's Sixth Amendment rights were violated, there must be a determination as to whether the defense was prejudiced by counsel's ineffectiveness.' *State v. Lytle* (1976), 48 Ohio St.2d 391, 396-397, 2 O.O.3d 495, 498, 358 N.E.2d 623, 627, vacated in part on other grounds (1978), 438 U.S. 910, 98 S.Ct. 3135, 57 L.Ed.2d 1154. This standard is essentially the same as the one enunciated by the United States Supreme Court in *Strickland v. Washington* (1984), 466 U.S. 668 * * *."

"Even assuming that counsel's performance was ineffective, this is not sufficient to warrant reversal of a conviction. 'An error by counsel, even if professionally unreasonable, does not warrant setting aside the judgment of a criminal proceeding if the error had no effect on the judgment. Cf. *United States v. Morrison*, 449 U.S. 361, 364-365 [101 S.Ct. 665, 66 L.Ed.2d 564] (1981).' *Strickland*, supra, 466 U.S. at 691, 104 S.Ct. at 2066. To warrant reversal, '[t]he defendant must show that there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different. A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome.' *Strickland*, supra, at 694, 104 S.Ct. at 2068. In adopting this standard, it is important to note that the court specifically rejected lesser standards for demonstrating prejudice." *Bradley* at 142.

"Accordingly, to show that a defendant has been prejudiced by counsel's deficient performance, the defendant must prove that there exists a reasonable probability that, were it not for counsel's errors, the result of the trial would have been different." *Id.* at 143.

Here, appellant argues that trial counsel was deficient for failing to file a motion to investigate and invalidate the warrant used to compel appellant to submit a DNA sample based on the language in its attached affidavit that described the CODIS database as a "database that stores sample DNA from convicted felons in the State of Ohio." Appellant has not shown that a challenge of the inclusion of this statement in the warrant would have changed the outcome of the matter. Appellant argues that he was not a convicted felon, and the warrant would not have been issued without this mistaken reference. The challenged line does not state that appellant was a convicted felon or that his DNA profile was stored in the database as a result of being a convicted felon. The challenged averment merely inaccurately describes the CODIS database by leaving out all the other classes of profiles that are stored therein. Removing this sentence would likely have had no impact on the issuance of the warrant. Therefore, appellant has failed to demonstrate that a *Franks*⁵ hearing to challenge the validity of the warrant would have been successful, especially

⁵ See *Franks v. Delaware* (1978), 438 U.S. 154, 98 S.Ct. 2674, 57 L.Ed.2d 667.

given the ruling of the trial court that the state had the authority to maintain appellant's DNA profile under R.C. 109.573.

Having overruled all of appellant's assigned errors, we affirm his convictions.

It is ordered that appellee recover from appellant costs herein taxed.

The court finds there were reasonable grounds for this appeal.

It is ordered that a special mandate issue out of this court directing the common pleas court to carry this judgment into execution. The defendant's convictions having been affirmed, any bail pending appeal is terminated. Case remanded to the trial court for execution of sentence.

A certified copy of this entry shall constitute the mandate pursuant to Rule 27 of the Rules of Appellate Procedure.


FRANK D. CELEBREZZE, JR., PRESIDING JUDGE

JAMES J. SWEENEY, J., and
SEAN C. GALLAGHER, J., CONCUR