

FILED
AUG 02, 2016
Court of Appeals
Division III
State of Washington

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DIVISION III

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Respondent,
vs.

ALFRED EARLE BROWN,

Appellant.

No. 34203-4-III

MOTION FOR WITHDRAWAL

(RAP 18.3)

- Identity: This Motion is filed by Andrea Burkhart, attorney of record for the Appellant.
- 2. Relief Sought: Appointed counsel for Appellant requests permission to withdraw pursuant to RAP 18.3(a)(2).
- 3. <u>Facts Relevant to Motion:</u> On April 8, 2016, Andrea Burkhart was appointed to represent Appellant Alfred Earle Brown on appeal from the Felony Judgment and Sentence entered on February 4, 2016. In reviewing the case for appealable issues, counsel for Appellant took the following actions:
 - a. Read and reviewed the verbatim report of proceedings from the motion hearings of January 8, 2016, January 15, 2016, and January 22, 2016; the

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pretrial hearing and guilty plea of January 25, 2015; and the sentencing hearing of February 4, 2016;

- b. Read and reviewed all of the clerk's papers;
- c. Researched all pertinent legal issues and conferred with other attorneys concerning legal and factual bases for appellate review;
- d. Wrote to Appellant explaining the procedure and reason for this motion, and informing him of his right to file a pro se supplemental brief; and
- e. Served Appellant with a copy of this motion.
- 4. Grounds for Relief Requested: RAP 18.3(a) allows counsel appointed to represent an indigent defendant to withdraw if counsel can find no basis for a good faith argument on review and sets forth the procedures to be followed in making such a motion. Further due process requirements are established by Anders v. California, 386 U.S. 738, 87 S. Ct. 1396, 18 L. Ed. 2d 811 (1963) and explained in State v. Theobald, 78 Wn.2d 184, 470 P.2d 188 (1970).
- 5. Memorandum of Matters in the Record that Might Arguably Support Review:
 - a. Potential Assignments of Error
 - i. Involuntary waiver of Miranda rights
 - ii. Involuntary guilty plea
 - iii. Ineffective assistance of counsel
 - iv. Sentence outside the standard range
 - v. Statements at sentencing by persons other than the victim

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b. Statement of the Case

Alfred Brown was charged with two counts of assault in the second degree domestic violence as a persistent offender. CP 22-23. At a pretrial hearing, the State's law enforcement witness testified that he was dispatched to a report of assault. RP 27. He made contact with Joann¹ Brown, Alfred's mother, and observed bruising on her face, arms, and neck, RP 22, 27-29. Joann told him that Alfred had assaulted her, but she initially told the doctor she fell down the stairs. RP 30. She explained that she was afraid Alfred would kill her if she told the doctor what actually happened. RP 31. Joann appeared to be frightened and expressed concern about Alfred getting out of jail, reporting that he would kill her if he found out she told the police what happened. RP 32.

Alfred was then arrested on an outstanding felony warrant and handcuffed. RP 23-24. The arresting officer observed that Alfred was highly intoxicated and obtained a PBT reading of .419; he was too drunk to be booked into the jail and was taken to the hospital instead. RP 23, 34, 40. While the officer attempted to read the Miranda warnings, Alfred continually interrupted. RP 24-25. The officer then asked Alfred about Joann's injuries, and Alfred replied that she fell down the stairs. RP 25.

At a 3.5 pretrial hearing, Alfred testified that he recalled being read his Miranda rights and understood them. RP 45. However, he did not know police were accusing him of anything other than violating his probation. RP 45. Alfred described the police

¹ Since the Appellant and his mother share the same last name, this motion will refer to them by their first names to avoid confusion. No disrespect is intended.

questioning as an attempt to bully him and said that he would have invoked his rights if he had felt guilty. RP 46-47. He testified that he felt coerced because "[w]hen somebody accuses you of something, you answer back." RP 48. He denied being too intoxicated to know what was going on. RP 52.

The trial court found that Alfred voluntarily spoke to the police and his statement would be admissible. RP 53. Subsequently, Alfred entered an *Alford* plea to an amended information charging him with assault in the third degree and harassment. CP 28, 29. During the colloquy with the court, Alfred acknowledged that he had reviewed the guilty plea statement with his attorney and he understood it. RP 61. He stated that he felt the circumstances were coercive, but he was making a conscious decision to plead guilty on the advice of his attorney and he was entering the guilty plea freely and voluntarily. RP 62. The trial court reviewed the terms of the plea agreement with the State, which was for a maximum term of 60 months on each count, to run consecutive, as an exceptional sentence, and a separate case would be dismissed. Brown acknowledged that he agreed to the exceptional sentence recommendation. RP 63.

At sentencing, the court heard and reviewed victim impact statements from Joann, Marilyn Brown (Alfred's sister), and Sarah Lancaster, a family friend. RP 69-73. The State explained that the initial charge would have been Alfred's third strike offense, and advised the court that the parties' agreement was for a maximum sentence outside the standard range on both offenses, run consecutively for a total of 120 months. RP 74. Alfred's attorney confirmed the agreement to the court and requested that the court consider allowing Alfred to communicate with Joann in writing or over the phone. RP

75-76. He also confirmed that he reviewed the statement and the notices with Alfred, who signed that he understood them. RP 77. Alfred exercised his right of allocution and informed the court that while there had been lots of procedural mistakes and lies presented, his objective was to reconcile with his mother. RP 77-80.

The trial court followed the agreement and imposed an exceptional sentence upward and imposed only mandatory legal financial obligations. RP 80-81. The court declined to permit contact with Joann and entered a no-contact order for five years. RP 84; CP 62. Brown then timely appealed. CP 64.

c. <u>Authorities Pertaining to Potential Assignments of Error</u>

i. Involuntary waiver of Miranda rights

- State v. Reuben, 62 Wn. App. 620, 625, 814 P.2d 1177
 (1991)
- Townsend v. Sain, 372 U.S. 293, 307, 83 S. Ct. 745, 9
 L.Ed.2d 770 (1963), overruled on other grounds by Keeney
 v. Tamayo-Reyes, 504 U.S. 1, 112 S. Ct. 1715, 118 L.Ed.2d
 318 (1992)

ii. Involuntary quilty plea

- Boykin v. Alabama, 395 U.S. 238, 89 S. Ct. 1709, 23
 L.Ed.2d 274 (1969)
- Wood v. Morris, 87 Wn.2d 501, 554 P.2d 1032 (1976)
- State v. Perez, 33 Wn. App. 258, 260-61, 654 P.2d 708
 (1982)

1	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
2	I have by soutify under namely, of navign, under the laws of the Ctate of Machineton
3	I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington
4	that on the 2nd day of August, 2016, pursuant to prior agreement of the parties, I served
5	a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion for Withdrawal by e-mail to the following:
6	
7	David B. Trefry David.Trefry@co.yakima.wa.us
9	And by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, to the following
LO	Alfred Earle Brown, DOC #801659 Coyote Ridge Corrections Center
11	PO Box 769 Connell, WA 99326
L2 L3	SIGNED this <u>Awk</u> day of August, 2016 at Walla Walla, Washington.
L 4	P. Marino M. C. De
15	Breanna Eng
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BURKHART & BURKHART, PLLC

August 02, 2016 - 2:30 PM

Transmittal Letter

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Sender Name: Andrea J Burkhart - Email: Andrea@BurkhartAndBurkhart.com