

Supreme Court of Florida

COPY

No. 77,820

STATE OF FLORIDA, Petitioner,

vs.

CORNELL WATTS, Respondent.

[February 20, 1992]

OVERTON, J.

The State of Florida petitions this Court to review Watts v. State, 578 So. 2d 437 (Fla. 1st DCA 1991), in which the First District Court of Appeal reversed Watt's sentencing as a habitual offender. The district court certified the following question as being of great public importance:

WHETHER SECTION 775.084(1)(a)1, FLORIDA STATUTES (SUPP. 1988), WHICH DEFINES HABITUAL FELONY OFFENDERS AS THOSE WHO HAVE "PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONVICTED OF TWO OR MORE FELONIES," REQUIRES

THAT EACH OF THE FELONIES BE COMMITTED AFTER
CONVICTION FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PREVIOUS OFFENSE.

Id. at 438-39.¹

We answered this same certified question in the negative in our decision in State v. Barnes, No. 77,751 (Fla. Feb. 20, 1992). Accordingly, we quash that portion of the district court's decision reversing Watt's sentencing as a habitual offender and remand this case for further proceedings consistent with our opinion in Barnes.

It is so ordered.

SHAW, C.J. and McDONALD, BARKETT, GRIMES, KOGAN and HARDING, JJ.,
concur.

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO FILE REHEARING MOTION AND, IF
FILED, DETERMINED.

¹ We have jurisdiction. Art. V, § 3(b)(4), Fla. Const.

Application for Review of the Decision of the District Court of
Appeal - Certified Great Public Importance

First District - Case No. 90-1586

(Escambia County)

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