FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

VOL. 84

FEBRUARY 13, 2021

NO. 7



FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

The FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL is published weekly by the Fayette County Bar Association, 45 East Main Street, Suite 100, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401, 724-437-7994. Legal advertisements should be submitted online at www.fcbar.org no later than 12:00 noon on Friday for publication the following Saturday. No date of publication is promised, however. Legal notices are published exactly as submitted by the advertiser. Copyright 2001 Fayette County Bar Association. All rights reserved.

Co-Editors: Garnet L. Gordon and Melinda Deal Dellarose

Cover Design by Marvin R. Mayle, 207 Lick Hollow Road, Hopwood, PA

FAYETTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION Board of Directors

President: Charles O. Zebley, Jr. President Elect: Gretchen A. Mundorff Vice-President: Mark D. Brooks Secretary: Anne N. John Treasurer: Louise D. Monaghan Past President: Louise D. Monaghan Executive Director: Garnet L. Gordon Directors Jennifer M. Casini Rachel A. Clark Jeremy J. Davis Robert A. Gordon Sheryl R. Heid James E. Higinbotham, Jr. Margaret Zylka House John A. Kopas, III Wendy L. O'Brien Douglas S. Sholtis

ETHICS HOTLINE

The Ethics Hotline provides free advisory opinions to PBA members based upon review of a member's prospective conduct by members of the PBA Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility. The committee responds to requests regarding, the impact of the provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the Code of Judicial Conduct upon the inquiring member's proposed activity. All inquiries are confidential.

Call (800) 932-0311, ext. 2214.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

Our assistance is confidential, non-judgmental, safe, and effective

To talk to a lawyer today, call: 1-888-999-1941 717-541-4360

ESTATE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary or of administration have been granted to the following estates. All persons indebted to said estates are required to make payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the administrators or executors named.

Third Publication

CAROLYN JOAN ANDREWS, late of

Uniontown, Fayette County, PA (3) *Executrix*: Linda Susan Cocciardo c/o 11 Pittsburgh Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Thomas W. Shaffer

RUTH ARLENE PLUME APPLEBY, late of

Uniontown, Fayette County, PA (3) *Executor*: Tracy Ann Appleby Hixon c/o 11 Pittsburgh Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Thomas W. Shaffer

JAMES PATRICK COBURN, III, late of

Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (3) Administratrix: Cynthia A. Dragosin 764 VanKirk Street Clairton, PA 15025 c/o 400 Market Street Elizabeth, PA 15037 Attorney: Daniel F. Bekavac, Sr.

EMMA DZIAK, a/k/a EMMA JEAN DZIAK,

late of Georges Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Executor*: Jon Dziak, Sr. 110 Top Row Road Uniontown, PA 15401 c/o 76 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Douglas S. Sholtis

ANN GEORGE, a/k/a ANN M. KOBALY, late

of Washington Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Executrix*: Bonita A. Kline 1415 Willowbrook Road Rostraver Township, PA 15012 c/o 823 Broad Avenue Belle Vernon, PA 15012 *Attorney*: Mark E. Ramsier

JUSTIN HOOVER, a/k/a JUSTIN JAMES

HOOVER, late of Wharton Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Jason C. Hoover c/o Higinbotham Law Offices 45 East Main Street, Suite 500 Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: James Higinbotham

GERALD B. KNOX, late of Redstone

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) Personal Representative: Randy Shea c/o Davis and Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Jeremy J. Davis

SHIRLEY ANN LITTLE, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (3) *Executors*: Michael Wayne Little and David Allen Little c/o 11 Pittsburgh Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Thomas W. Shaffer

JOHN PHILLIP MOORMAN, JR., late of

Uniontown, Fayette County, PA (3) *Executor*: James Albert Thomas c/o 11 Pittsburgh Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Thomas W. Shaffer

JOHN A. SKILES, a/k/a JOHN ALLEN

SKILES, late of German Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Deborah Matthews c/o Davis and Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Jeremy J. Davis

ALBERT TOKARCIK, a/k/a ALBERT A.

TOKARCIK, late of Uniontown, Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: Heather Tokarcik c/o Chambers & Pratt, P.C. 223 East High Street Waynesburg, PA 15370 Attorney: Kimberly J. Simon-Pratt

EDWIN EUGENE WOLFE, late of Henry

Clay Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Administratrix*: Renee Ruth c/o Proden and O'Brien 99 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Sean M. Lementowski

Second Publication

GIFFORD F. GRIMES, a/k/a GIFFORD

GRIMES, late of North Union Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executrix*: Pamela S. Conn c/o John and John 96 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Simon B. John

CLARENCE F. HIBBARD, a/k/a

CLARENCE F. HIBBARD, late of Georges Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Co-Administrators*: Traci L. Hibbard and Clarence E. Hibbard c/o George & George 92 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: G.T. George

ROSEMARIE LAURITA, late of Menallen

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executor*: Anthony J. Laurita c/o 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Anthony Dedola

FRANCES LOUISE LEON, late of Redstone

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) Personal Representative: Renee Donofrio c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: James T. Davis

LENORA R. MEHAULIC, late of South

Union Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executrix*: Brenda Ann Lynn c/o 4 North Beeson Boulevard Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Sheryl Heid

HARRY J. NEDLEY, SR., a/k/a HARRY J.

NEDLEY, late of South Union Township, Fayette County, PA (2) Personal Representative: Harry J. Nedley, Jr. c/o George & George 92 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Joseph M. George

CHARLES A. YARRIS, a/k/a CHARLES A.

YARRIS, SR., late of North Union Township,

Fayette County, PA (2) *Executor*: Charles A. Yarris, Jr. c/o Fitzsimmons and Barclay 55 East Church Street, Suite 102 Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: James N. Fitzsimmons, Jr.

First Publication

BARBARA J. AMBROSINI, a/k/aBARBARA JANE AMBROSINI, late of Dunbar, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representative: Bridgette D. Bishop c/o Watson Mundorff, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Timothy J. Witt

VERA ANN BILONICK, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (1) *Executrix*: Lisa Ann Marcello c/o Golvash & Epstein, LLC 9 Dewalt Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15227 *Attorney*: Jeffrey Golvash

ROBERT KRAYNAK, late of Fayette County, PA (1)

Administratrix: Cheryl Kraynak 121 Morgantown Street Martin, PA 15460 c/o Fieschko & Associates, Inc. Suite 2230, 436 7th. Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219 *Attorney*: Joseph Fieschko

MARY ANN MARKUSIC, late of North

Union Township, Fayette County, PA (1) Administratrix: Kimberly A. Brown c/o 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Anthony S. Dedola, Jr.

SARA O'BRIEN, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) Administrator: Roland J. O'Brien 138 Earl Lane Hatboro, PA 19040 c/o 206 Derrick Avenue Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Gary N. Altman

JOSEPH RUFF, late of Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representative: Connie M. Ruff 670 Rich Hill Road Connellsville, PA 15425 c/o Snyder and Snyder, PLLC 17 North Diamond Street Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666 Attorney: Marvin Snyder

SAMUEL D. SNYDER, late of North Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) *Administratrix*: Shauna R. Smith 144 East Askren Street Uniontown, PA 15401

THOMAS R. STEWART, III, late of Franklin

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) *Executor*: Gary N. Altman c/o 206 Derrick Avenue Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Gary N. Altman

JOHN ZENTKOVICH, JR., late of Georges

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) *Executrix*: Deborah David c/o 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Webster & Webster

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Revocable Trust Pursuant to 20 Pa. C.S. § 7755(c)

The Roley Family Trust under agreement dated 9/27/2001

Notice is hereby given of the administration of THE ROLEY FAMILY TRUST, DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2001. JEANETTE F. ROLEY, settlor of the trust, of the City of Connellsville, County of Fayette and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, died on December 22, 2020. All persons indebted to the said decedent are requested to make payment to the undersigned without delay, and all persons having claims or demands against said estate are requested to make known the same.

David Edward Roley, Successor Trustee

c/o WATSON MUNDORFF, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425-6218 Phone: 724-626-8882

(2 of 3)

Fictitious Name Registration

Notice is hereby given that an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name was filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on December 23, 2020 for Fayette Property Services at 145 Hawk Road Normalville, PA 15469. The name and address of each individual interested in the business is Ryan Gallis at 145 Hawk Road Normalville, PA 15469. This was filed in accordance with 54 PaC.S. 311.

Registers' Notice

Notice by JEFFREY L. REDMAN, Register of Wills and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas

Notice is hereby given to heirs, legatees, creditors, and all parties in interest that accounts in the following estates have been filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas as the case may be, on the dates stated and that the same will be presented for confirmation to the Orphans' Court Division of Fayette County on

Monday, March 1, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

Accountant

	Estate Name	Estate Number
--	-------------	---------------

2618-0614 PATRICIA LUBITS GUMP Joseph M. Standish, Executor

Notice is also hereby given that all of the foregoing Accounts will be called for Audit on

Monday, March 15, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

in Courtroom No. 1 of the **Honorable Steve P. Leskinen** or his chambers, 2nd Floor, Courthouse, Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, at which time the Court will examine and audit said accounts, hear exceptions to same or fix a time therefore, and make distribution of the balance ascertained to be in the hands of the Accountants.

Notice is also hereby given to heirs, legatees, creditors, and all parties in interest that accounts in the following estates have been filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas as the case may be, on the dates stated and that the same will be presented for confirmation to the Orphans' Court Division of Fayette County on

Monday, March 1, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

Estate Number	Estate Name	Accountant
2620-0435	GERALD RICHARD DOMONKOS	Courtney Roebuck, Administratrix
2619-0551	WILLIAM F. JOHNSON a/k/a WILLIAM FRANK JOHNSON a/k/a WILLIAM F. JOHNSON, JR.	William F. Johnson III, Executor

Notice is also hereby given that all of the foregoing Accounts will be called for Audit on

Monday, March 15, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

in Courtroom No. 5 of the **Honorable Joseph M. George, Jr.** or his chambers, 3rd Floor, Courthouse, Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, at which time the Court will examine and audit said accounts, hear exceptions to same or fix a time therefore, and make distribution of the balance ascertained to be in the hands of the Accountants.

JEFFREY L. REDMAN Register of Wills and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division (1 of 2)

JUDICIAL OPINION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CRIMINAL DIVISION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	
v.	
NATHAN BALBOA ABLE, Defendant.	 No. 813 of 2019 Honorable Judge Steve P. Leskinen

OPINION AND ORDER

Leskinen, J.

June 30, 2020

Before the Court is an Omnibus Pretrial Motion that includes a Motion to Suppress and a Motion to Dismiss. An evidentiary hearing was held on October 151, 2019. For the reasons stated herein, the Court must DENY Defendant's Motion in part and GRANT the Motion in part.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Defendant is charged with DUI: General Impairment {1}, DUI: High Rate of Alcohol {2}, DUI: Controlled Substance - Schedule 1 {3}, Controlled Substance - Schedule 2 or 3 {4}, Possession of Controlled Substance By Person Not Registered {5}, Marijuana- Small Amount Personal Use {6}, Drug Paraphernalia {7}, and Disregarding Traffic Lane {8}. The incident giving rise to these charges occurred at approximately 2:18 a.m. on October 26th, 2018 in Dunbar Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

According to Trooper Tony Anthony, Defendant was traveling on West Crawford Avenue when he observed him cross the right fog line and just miss striking a telephone pole. The Trooper also observed the vehicle made sudden jerking movements to stay in the lane as it began to cross the fog line again. After the Trooper initiated his vehicle's emergency lights and siren the Defendant's vehicle slowed abruptly and crossed the center double yellow line on multiple occasions.

^{{1} 75} Pa.C.S. § 3802(a)(1) Count 1.

^{{2} 75} Pa.C.S. § 3802(b) Count 2.

^{{3} 75} Pa.C.S. § 3802(d)(1)(i) Count 3.

^{{4} 75} Pa.C.S. § 3802(d)(1)(ii) Count 4.

^{{5} 35} Pa.C.S. § 780-113 {a) {16} Count 5.

^{{6} 35} Pa.C.S. § 780-113 (a)(31)(i) Count 6.

^{{7} 35} Pa.C.S. § 780-113 (a)(32) Count 7.

^{{8} 75} Pa.C.S. § 3309 1(s) Count 8.

When the Trooper spoke with Defendant he smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from Defendant as he spoke. He noticed that Defendant had red bloodshot/ glassy eyes, slurred speech, and sluggish reactions to questions. He also noticed a clear plastic baggie containing a white powdery substance in the center console cup holder of the vehicle which resembled cocaine. Defendant was then asked to step out of the vehicle and to perform field sobriety tests. Based on his performance the Trooper found that Defendant was impaired. After being read both the O'Connell warnings and accurate Implied Consent laws, Defendant consented to a blood test at 2:42 a.m., which resulted in (1) a.163% BAC, (2) 6.7 ng/ml of Delta-9 THC, and (3) 34 ng/ml of cocaine. The Defendant specifically asked what would be the consequences if he refused a blood test, and the Trooper replied that, if Defendant was convicted he would be subjected to harsher punishment.

Defendant waived his preliminary hearing and filed this timely motion seeking to suppress the traffic stop, suppress the blood test results in light of the Supreme Court of the United States' holding in Birchfield v. North Dakota, 136 S.Ct. 2160 (2016), and to dismiss all of the charges.

DISCUSSION

75 Pa.C.S. § 1547 sets forth civil penalties for motorists who are arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI) and refuse to submit to chemical testing. These penalties include suspending the motorist's license for at least one year, 75 Pa.C.S. § 1 547(b)(1), and expressly allowing evidence of the motorist's refusal to be admitted at his subsequent criminal trial on DUI charges. 75 Pa.C.S. § 1547(e) provides that, in any summary proceeding or criminal proceeding in which the defendant is charged with a violation of 75 Pa.C.S. § 3802 or any other violation of this title arising out of the same action, the fact that the defendant refused to submit to chemical testing as required by subsection (a) may be introduced in evidence along with other testimony concerning the circumstances of the refusal. No presumptions shall arise from this evidence but it may be considered along with other factors concerning the charge. Id.

Birchfield held that motorists cannot be deemed to have consented to submit to a blood test if they are threatened with criminal penalties or enhanced punishment. A warrantless blood test, which is conducted when no exceptions to the warrant requirement apply, violates the Fourth Amendment rights of a motorist suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI).

The Birchfield Court rejected criminal prosecution or enhanced criminal penalties as a valid consequence for refusing a warrantless blood test. Motorists cannot be deemed to have consented to submit to a blood test on pain of committing a criminal offense. Commonwealth v. Monarch, 200 A.3d 51, (Pa. 2019). At the same time, the Court did not back away from its approval of other kinds of consequences for refusal, such as "evidentiary consequences." Id.

Implied consent laws authorize a police officer to request a motorist's submission to a chemical test, at which point the motorist must choose either: (a) to comply with the test; or (b) to refuse and accept the civil penalties that accompany refusal. The choice may well be a difficult one, but this alone does not invalidate the "implied consent" created by the statute.

In the instant case, the observations the Trooper made that led him to believe Defendant was driving under the influence are readily visible on the MVR recording. The recording demonstrates Defendant did cross over the white fog line, crossed over the center double yellow line, and on at least one occasion made sudden jerking movements to stay in the lane. Thus, it is the conclusion of this Court that these instances give rise to both probable cause and reasonable suspicion that are a valid basis for the stop.

During the exchange the Defendant asked the Trooper what happened if he did not consent to the blood test. The Trooper replied that if the defendant was found guilty, he could receive a harsher punishment. The Trooper's statement was not correct since there are no longer any (criminal) punishments for a refusal. There are civil penalties, as noted above, and they apply independently of conviction. The Commonwealth argues that the Trooper's warning did not render the choice to submit involuntary because the Defendant would not have received "harsher punishment" after conviction, just harsher civil penalties whether or not he was convicted.

Unfortunately, the Trooper's answer in totality strongly implies enhanced criminal sentencing for a refusal. A refusal plus conviction equals "harsher punishment" than a conviction alone. A conviction, of course, would be a criminal conviction, so the harsher punishment that would follow would necessarily be an enhanced criminal penalty.

It is impossible for this Court to find that the Trooper's inaccurate statement did not induce the Defendant to consent to the blood draw. As a result, this Court must suppress the test results. Commonwealth v. Ennels, 167 A.3d 716, (Superior Court 2017)

However, since granting the Defendant's Motion to suppress the blood test essentially converts the Defendant's consent into a refusal, the civil penalties should apply. The Defendant cannot say he consented to the blood test because of the civil penalties and simultaneously assert that he would have refused the test if not for non-existent criminal penalties. The Trooper can supply a copy of this OPINION and ORDER to PennDoT as proof of the Defendant's "retroactive" refusal, and if the Defendant's license is thereafter suspended for such refusal, that issue can be litigated in that proper forum.

The video evidence and the Trooper's testimony is amply sufficient to convict the Defendant of impaired driving-but it will be impossible to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he had any specific level of drugs or alcohol in his system so as to convict him of a second or third tier offense. Because those offenses require blood test results showing a specific level of drugs and/or alcohol, the two DUI charges that depend on such results must be DISMISSED.

WHEREFORE, the Court enters the following Order:

ORDER

AND NOW, this 30th day of June, 2020, after a hearing on Defendant's Omnibus Pretrial Motion, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED that the Motion is DENIED in part and GRANTED in part.

This Court finds that: (1) Trooper Anthony was able to articulate valid probable cause and reasonable suspicion for the traffic stop, which was confirmed by video evidence, so the stop is NOT SUPPRESSED; (2) the consent to the blood draw could have been induced in part by the inaccurate and inherently coercive answer the Trooper gave wherein he told the Defendant that he could be subjected to harsher punishment after conviction if he refused the blood test, so the results of the blood test are HEREBY SUPPRESSED; and (3) since the Commonwealth will therefore be unable to prove Counts 2 and 3, said COUNT 2 and COUNT 3 are HEREBY DISMISSED.

In all other respects, the Omnibus Pretrial Motion of the Defendant is DENIED.

BY THE COURT: LESKINEN, J.

ATTEST: Clerk of Courts

WARMAN ABSTRACT & RESEARCH LLC

JOHN F. WARMAN

518 Madison Drive

Smithfield, PA 15478

724-322-6529

johnfranciswarman@gmail.com

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL/CURRENT OWNER/MINERAL TITLE

A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE E&O INSURED WILL TRAVEL ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS







www.gislaw.com

700 Grant Bldg., 310 Grant St., Pgh., PA 15219