

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO
TENTH APPELLATE DISTRICT

State of Ohio,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff-Appellee,	:	
	:	
v.	:	No. 06AP-811
	:	(C.P.C. No. 02CR-959)
Brandon T. Humphreys,	:	(REGULAR CALENDAR)
	:	
Defendant-Appellant.	:	

O P I N I O N

Rendered on March 8, 2007

Ron O'Brien, Prosecuting Attorney, and *Laura R. Swisher*, for appellee.

Brandon T. Humphreys, pro se.

APPEAL from the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas.

McGRATH, J.

{¶1} Defendant-appellant, Brandon T. Humphreys ("appellant"), appeals from a judgment of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas in which the court denied his petition for post-conviction relief.

{¶2} In 2003, appellant pled guilty to three counts of rape. The trial court sentenced appellant eight years on each count, all of which were to be served consecutively to each other. The court also found appellant to be a sexual predator

pursuant to R.C. 2950.09. Appellant filed a direct appeal of his sentence, and the trial court's sexual predator determination, but voluntarily dismissed same prior to briefing.

{¶3} On June 5, 2006, appellant filed the present post-conviction petition, alleging that he should be resentenced pursuant to *Blakely v. Washington*, 524 U.S. 296, 124 S.Ct. 2531, and *State v. Foster*, 109 Ohio St.3d.1, 2006-Ohio-856, certiorari denied (2006), 127 S.Ct. 442. On August 22, 2006, the trial court denied the petition on the basis that it was untimely. Appellant appeals the judgment of the trial court, and brings the following two assignments of error for our review:

[1.] THE TRIAL COURT ERRED BY IMPOSING CONSECUTIVE SENTENCES AND MAKING FINDINGS OF FACT THAT WAS NOT ADMITTED BY DEFENDANT.

[2.] THE TRIAL COURT ERRED BY DISMISSING DEFENDANT'S PETITION WITHOUT A HEARING.

{¶4} Because appellant's assignments of error are interrelated, we address them jointly. Section 2953.21 of the Ohio Revised Code provides, in part:

Any person who has been convicted of a criminal offense or adjudicated a delinquent child and who claims that there was such a denial or infringement of the person's rights as to render the judgment void or voidable under the Ohio Constitution or the Constitution of the United States, * * * may file a petition in the court that imposed sentence, stating the grounds for relief relied upon, and asking the court to vacate or set aside the judgment or sentence or to grant other appropriate relief. The petitioner may file a supporting affidavit and other documentary evidence in support of the claim for relief.

* * *

[A] petition under division (A)(1) of this section shall be filed no later than one hundred eighty days after the date on which the trial transcript is filed in the court of appeals in the direct appeal of the judgment of conviction or adjudication or, if the

direct appeal involves a sentence of death, the date on which the trial transcript is filed in the supreme court. If no appeal is taken, * * * the petition shall be filed no later than one hundred eighty days after the expiration of the time for filing the appeal.

R.C. 2953.21(A)(1) and (2).

{¶5} Appellant filed his post-conviction petition long after the expiration provided for under Ohio law. There are exceptions contained in R.C. 2953.23(A) for when a trial court may nonetheless consider an untimely motion for post-conviction relief. Specifically, that statute provides, in part:

Whether a hearing is or is not held on a petition filed pursuant to section 2953.21 of the Revised Code, a court may not entertain a petition filed after the expiration of the period prescribed in division (A) of that section or a second petition or successive petitions for similar relief on behalf of a petitioner unless division (A)(1) or (2) of this section applies:

(1) Both of the following apply:

(a) Either the petitioner shows that the petitioner was unavoidably prevented from discovery of the facts upon which the petitioner must rely to present the claim for relief, or, subsequent to the period prescribed in division (A)(2) of section 2953.21 of the Revised Code or to the filing of an earlier petition, the United States Supreme Court recognized a new federal or state right that applies retroactively to persons in the petitioner's situation, and the petition asserts a claim based on that right.

(b) The petitioner shows by clear and convincing evidence that, but for constitutional error at trial, no reasonable factfinder would have found the petitioner guilty of the offense of which the petitioner was convicted or, if the claim challenges a sentence of death that, but for constitutional error at the sentencing hearing, no reasonable factfinder would have found the petitioner eligible for the death sentence.

{¶6} Here, appellant failed to meet the requirements of R.C. 2953.23(A)(1). As for R.C. 2953.23(A)(1)(a), appellant's petition was not based upon any new facts, and *Blakely* did not create a new federal or state right that applies retroactively to appellant. See, e.g., *State v. I'Jaju*, Franklin App. No. 06AP-452, 2006-Ohio-6436; *State v. Penn*, Franklin App. No. 06AP-269, 2006-Ohio-5204; *State v. Wilson*, Franklin App. No. 05AP-939, 2006-Ohio-2750, at ¶15, citing *State v. Graham*, Franklin App. No. 05AP-588, 2006-Ohio-914, at ¶10, and *State v. Myers*, Franklin App. No. 05AP-228, 2005-Ohio-5998, at ¶36-37.

{¶7} With regard to R.C. 2953.23(A)(1)(b), in appellant's June 5, 2006, post-conviction petition, appellant addressed only sentencing issues and did not present any argument related to his guilt for the underlying charges. "The plain language of R.C. 2953.23(A)(1)(b) does not extend to sentencing errors, except for those occurring within the capital punishment context." *State v. Barkley*, Summit App. No. 22351, 2005-Ohio-1268, at ¶11. Thus, because appellant's petition presents issues related to sentencing and not to guilt, he failed to meet R.C. 2953.23(A)(1)(b).

{¶8} As we noted in *Wilson*, although the Supreme Court of Ohio held in *Foster*, supra, that certain Ohio felony sentencing statutes violate the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, its ruling applies only to those cases pending upon direct review or not yet final as of the date *Foster* was decided, not to a post-conviction relief motion untimely filed. *Wilson*, at ¶15, citing *State v. Luther*, Lorain App. No. 05CA008770, 2006-Ohio-2280, at ¶12; *State v. Jones*, Miami App. No. 2005-CA-26, 2006-Ohio-2360, at ¶18; and *State v. Rawlins*, Scioto App. No. 05CA3012, 2006-Ohio-1901, at ¶12.

{¶9} Therefore, because appellant neither filed his petition within the 180-day time period of R.C. 2953.21(A)(2), nor satisfied the exception in R.C. 2953.23, the trial court was without jurisdiction to consider appellant's untimely petition for post-conviction relief. Thus, we find the trial court did not err in denying his petition for post-conviction relief.

{¶10} Accordingly, appellant's two assignments of error are overruled, and the judgment of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas is affirmed.

Judgment affirmed.

KLATT and FRENCH, JJ., concur.
