

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 95,392

TARVAN GULLEY,

Petitioner,

-vs-

THE STATE OF FLORIDA,

Respondent.

ON PETITION FOR DISCRETIONARY REVIEW

BRIEF OF RESPONDENT ON THE MERITS

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH
Attorney General
Tallahassee, Florida

MICHAEL J. NEIMAND, Bureau Chief
Assistant Attorney General
Florida Bar Number 0239437

LARA J. EDELSTEIN
Assistant Attorney General
Florida Bar Number 0078591
Office of the Attorney General
Appellate Division
110 S.E. 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Telephone: (954) 712-4600
Facsimile: (954) 712-4761

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INTRODUCTION

The Petitioner, Tarvan Gulley, was the Defendant in the trial court and the Appellant in the Third District Court of Appeal (hereafter, "Third District"). The State of Florida was the prosecution in the trial court and the Appellee in the Third District. In this brief, the parties will be referred to as they stood in the trial court. The symbols "R." and "T." will refer to the record on appeal and the transcripts of the proceedings, respectively.

CERTIFICATE OF FONT AND TYPE SIZE

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND FACTS

The Defendant was charged by Information with burglary of an occupied structure and resisting an officer without violence. After a jury trial, the Defendant was found guilty of attempted burglary of an occupied structure, a lesser included offense, and resisting an officer without violence.

The Defendant was sentenced to five years as a habitual violent offender as to the burglary charge. The entry of sentence was suspended as to the resisting an officer charge.

The Defendant filed a Motion to Correct Illegal Sentence on September 21, 1998. The Defendant asserted the following: The trial court imposed an illegal sentence where the habitual violent offender sentence violates the single subject rule pursuant to Thompson v. State, 708 So. 2d 315 (Fla. 2d DCA 1998).

The Defendant's motion was denied without a hearing on September 23, 1998. An appeal of the denial of his motion for post-conviction relief was filed on October 22, 1998. The Third District affirmed the order denying the Defendant's motion for post-conviction relief and certified conflict with Thompson v. State, 708 So. 2d 315 (Fla. 2d DCA), review granted, 717 So. 2d 538 (Fla. 1998). (App. A).

POINT INVOLVED ON APPEAL

WHETHER THE LOWER COURT ERRED IN RULING THAT
CHAPTER 95-182 LAWS OF FLORIDA DID NOT VIOLATE
THE SINGLE REQUIREMENT OF FLORIDA'S
CONSTITUTION.

SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT

There is a natural and logical connection among sections of the Gort Act. The first part concerns sentencing for aggravated stalking and other forms of violent conduct. The second provides a remedy for the victims of this conduct when the conduct occurs in a relationship. These provisions have a cogent relationship to each other. Thus, the Gort Act does not violate the single subject provision of Florida's Constitution. Therefore, this Court should affirm the decision below.

As the issue in the instant case is the precise issue presently pending before this Court in State v. Thompson, Case No. 92,831, the State will therefore fully adopt the State's brief filed in this Court in Thompson for the State's answer brief in this case.

ARGUMENT

THE LOWER COURT CORRECTLY RULED THAT CHAPTER 95-182 LAWS OF FLORIDA DID NOT VIOLATE THE SINGLE REQUIREMENT OF FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION.

In the instant case, the trial court sentenced the Defendant as a violent career criminal to a state prison term of five years pursuant to §775.084(4)(c), Fla. Stat. (1995), the "Gort Act". Now, the Defendant is arguing, as he argued in the Third District, that his violent career criminal sentence should be vacated because §775.084(4)(c), Fla. Stat. (1995) is unconstitutional on the ground that the session law that enacted it, Chapter 95-182, Laws of Florida, violated the single subject provision of the Florida Constitution. This Court should reject this claim and affirm the lower court's ruling.

As noted by the Defendant, the Third District has previously held that chapter 95-182 did not violate the single subject requirement of the Florida Constitution. Higgs v. State, 695 So. 2d 872 (Fla. 3d DCA 1997). On the other hand, the Second District has held to the contrary. Thompson v. State, 708 So. 2d 315 (Fla. 2d DCA 1998). Hence, although the Third District affirmed in the instant case on the authority of Higgs, in light of Thompson, the Third District also certified conflict with Thompson.

The issue in the instant case is the exact issue currently pending before this Court in State v. Thompson, No. 92,831. In the interest of judicial economy, the State will adopt the State's

brief in State v. Thompson for the answer brief in this case.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, the State submits that Third District properly held that Chapter 95-182 did not violate the single subject provision of the Florida Constitution. This Court should therefore affirm.

Respectfully Submitted,

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH
Attorney General
Tallahassee, Florida

MICHAEL J. NEIMAND, Bureau Chief
Assistant Attorney General
Florida Bar Number 0239437

LARA J. EDELSTEIN
Assistant Attorney General
Florida Bar Number 0078591
Office of the Attorney General
Appellate Division
110 S.E. 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Telephone: (954) 712-4600
Facsimile: (954) 712-4761

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Brief of Respondent was mailed this ____ day of _____, 1999, to TARVAN GULLEY, DC # 082447, Dorm G, Bunk 1119U, Madison Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 692, Madison, Florida 32341-0692.

LARA J. EDELSTEIN
Assistant Attorney General