

**Appendix to
Petition for *Writ of Certiorari***

APPENDIX A:

OPINION, *UNITED STATES V. JOHNSON*, NO. 23-5854 (6TH CIR. DEC. 18, 2024).

No. 23-5854

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

FILED
Dec 18, 2024
KELLY L. STEPHENS, Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff-Appellee,)	
)	
v.)	<u>O R D E R</u>
)	
JASON JOHNSON,)	
)	
Defendant-Appellant.)	

Before: DAVIS, MATHIS, and BLOOMEKATZ, Circuit Judges.

Jason Johnson challenges two special conditions of his supervised release imposed by the district court following his guilty plea to methamphetamine offenses. The government moves to dismiss Johnson’s appeal based on the appeal waiver contained in his plea agreement. Johnson opposes the government’s motion.

A federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment charging Johnson with (1) conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A) and 846; (2) conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846; and (3) possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of actual methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A). The superseding indictment gave notice pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 851 that Johnson was subject to enhanced statutory penalties based on his prior convictions for serious drug felonies.

Johnson entered into a plea agreement, agreeing to plead guilty to Count 1 of the superseding indictment and to a lesser included offense of Count 3—possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of actual methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(B). In exchange, the government agreed to dismiss Count 2 and to decline to file an information under 21 U.S.C. § 851 seeking to enhance Johnson’s sentence. Pursuant to Federal

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Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C), the parties agreed that a sentence of 180 months of imprisonment followed by ten years of supervised release would be the appropriate disposition of the case. The plea agreement included an appellate-waiver provision, in which Johnson agreed that he would not file a direct appeal of his conviction or sentence.

Johnson's presentence report set forth a guidelines range of 360 months to life imprisonment based on his status as a career offender. *See* USSG § 4B1.1. At sentencing, the district court accepted the plea agreement and sentenced Johnson to 180 months of imprisonment followed by ten years of supervised release.

Johnson appealed, asserting that the district court plainly erred in imposing two special conditions of his supervised release:

- 1) The defendant shall participate in a program of testing and/or treatment for drug and/or alcohol abuse, as directed by the probation officer, until such time as the defendant is released from the program by the probation officer.
- 2) The defendant shall participate in a program of mental health treatment, as directed by the probation officer, until such time as the defendant is released from the program by the probation officer.

Johnson argues that these conditions constitute an unconstitutional delegation of a judicial function to the probation officer. The government moves to dismiss Johnson's appeal based on the plea agreement's appellate-waiver provision.

We review de novo Johnson's waiver of his appeal rights. *See United States v. Detloff*, 794 F.3d 588, 592 (6th Cir. 2015). "It is axiomatic that as part of a valid plea agreement, criminal defendants may waive many of their most fundamental legal rights, including their right to appeal." *United States v. Milliron*, 984 F.3d 1188, 1192 (6th Cir. 2021) (cleaned up). "A waiver provision is binding and forecloses appellate review if (1) the defendant's claim falls within the scope of the appeal waiver provision; and (2) the defendant 'knowingly and voluntarily' agreed to the plea agreement and waiver." *Id.* at 1193 (citing *United States v. Toth*, 668 F.3d 374, 377-78 (6th Cir. 2012)).

In his plea agreement, Johnson agreed that he would not file a direct appeal of his conviction or sentence. Because supervised release and the conditions thereof are part of a

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sentence, Johnson's challenge to the special conditions of his supervised release falls within the scope of his appeal waiver. *See United States v. Ferguson*, 669 F.3d 756, 765-67 (6th Cir. 2012); *see also United States v. Krul*, 774 F.3d 371, 374 (6th Cir. 2014).

Johnson argues in response to the government's motion to dismiss that delegation challenges are not subject to appeal waivers. He relies on *United States v. Wells*, in which the Ninth Circuit held that a provision waiving the right to appeal a defendant's sentence does not apply if the defendant raises a constitutional claim challenging the sentence. 29 F.4th 580, 586, 587 (9th Cir. 2022). We have not adopted such an exception and have instead enforced appeal waivers to bar constitutional challenges to a defendant's sentence. *See United States v. Lash*, 584 F. App'x 285, 286 (6th Cir. 2014) (citing cases).

Because Johnson's appeal falls within the scope of his appeal waiver, "only challenges to the validity of the plea agreement and the appeal waiver therein will be entertained." *Milliron*, 984 F.3d at 1193. Johnson does not suggest that his plea agreement or appeal waiver was invalid. Under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(b)(1)(N), the district court "must inform the defendant of, and determine that the defendant understands, . . . the terms of any plea-agreement provision waiving the right to appeal or to collaterally attack the sentence." During the plea hearing, the magistrate judge confirmed that Johnson understood that he was waiving his right to file a direct appeal of his conviction and sentence. The record reflects that the magistrate judge fully complied with Rule 11 in conducting the plea hearing and that Johnson's guilty plea and appeal waiver were knowing and voluntary.

For these reasons, we **GRANT** the government's motion and **DISMISS** Johnson's appeal.

ENTERED BY ORDER OF THE COURT


Kelly L. Stephens, Clerk

APPENDIX B:

**JUDGMENT, *UNITED STATES V. JOHNSON*, NO. 1:19-CR-00129-TRM-SKL (E.D.
TENN. SEP. 19, 2023).**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

v.

Case Number: **1:19-CR-00129-TRM-SKL(1)**

JASON JOHNSON
AKA BOSS P
USM#54680-074

Howard Walton Anderson
Defendant's Attorney

THE DEFENDANT:

- ☒ pleaded guilty to count(s): **One and Three of the Superseding Indictment**
- ☐ pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) which was accepted by the court.
- ☐ was found guilty on count(s) after a plea of not guilty.

ACCORDINGLY, the court has adjudicated that the defendant is guilty of the following offense(s):

Title & Section and Nature of Offense	Date Violation Concluded	Count
21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A) & 846 Conspiracy to Distribute 500 Grams or More of Methamphetamine (Mixture)	06/30/2019	1s
21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) & 841(b)(1)(B) Possession with Intent to Distribute 5 Grams or More of Methamphetamine (Mixture)	06/30/2019	3s

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 7 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 and 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

- ☐ The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s).
- ☒ All remaining count(s) as to this defendant are dismissed upon motion of the United States.

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant shall notify the United States Attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant shall notify the court and the United States attorney of any material change in the defendant's economic circumstances.

September 15, 2023

Date of Imposition of Judgment

/s/Travis R. McDonough

Signature of Judicial Officer

Travis R. McDonough, Chief United States District Judge

Name & Title of Judicial Officer

September 15, 2023

Date

DEFENDANT: JASON JOHNSON
CASE NUMBER: 1:19-CR-00129-TRM-SKL(1)

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IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of:

180 months. This term consists of 180 months on each of Counts One and Count Three of the Superseding Indictment, to be served concurrently.

☒ The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:

The Court will recommend that the defendant receive 500 hours of substance abuse treatment from the Bureau of Prisons' Institution Residential Drug Abuse Treatment Program. The Court recommends the defendant receive mental health treatment and mental health medications previously prescribed in Bureau of Prisons facilities be reexamined for implementation. It is also recommended the defendant be considered for placement into FMC Butner.

☒ The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

☐ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:

☐ at ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m. on

☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.

☐ The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:

☐ before 2 p.m. on .

☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.

☐ as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on

to ,

at ,

with a certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

By _____

DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

DEFENDANT: JASON JOHNSON
CASE NUMBER: 1:19-CR-00129-TRM-SKL(1)

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SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of **Ten (10) years. This term consists of 10 years for Count One and Count Three, to be served concurrently.**

MANDATORY CONDITIONS

1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.
 - ☐ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
4. ☐ You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentencing of restitution. *(check if applicable)*
5. ☒ You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. *(check if applicable)*
6. ☐ You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, et seq.) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense. *(check if applicable)*
7. ☐ You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. *(check if applicable)*

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any other conditions on the attached page.

DEFENDANT: JASON JOHNSON
CASE NUMBER: 1:19-CR-00129-TRM-SKL(1)

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STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

1. You must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of your release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
2. After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
3. You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
4. You must answer truthfully the questions asked by your probation officer.
5. You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
6. You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
7. You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
8. You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
9. If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
10. You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
11. You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
12. If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
13. You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

U.S. Probation Office Use Only

A U.S. probation officer has instructed me on the mandatory, standard, and any special conditions specified by the court and has provided me with a written copy of this judgment containing these conditions. For further information regarding these conditions, see *Overview of Probation and Supervised Release Conditions*, available at: www.uscourts.gov.

Defendant's Signature _____

Date _____

DEFENDANT: JASON JOHNSON
CASE NUMBER: 1:19-CR-00129-TRM-SKL(1)

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SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

- 1) The defendant shall participate in a program of testing and/or treatment for drug and/or alcohol abuse, as directed by the probation officer, until such time as the defendant is released from the program by the probation officer.**
- 2) The defendant shall participate in a program of mental health treatment, as directed by the probation officer, until such time as the defendant is released from the program by the probation officer.**
- 3) The defendant shall waive all rights to confidentiality regarding mental health and substance abuse treatment in order to allow release of information to the supervising United States Probation Officer and to authorize open communication between the probation officer and the treatment providers.**
- 4) The defendant shall submit his property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, [computers (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1)), other electronic communications or data storage devices or media,] or office, to a search conducted by a United States Probation Officer or designee. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation of release. The defendant shall warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition. An officer may conduct a search pursuant to this condition only when a reasonable suspicion exists that the defendant has violated a condition of his supervision, and the areas to be searched contain evidence of this violation. Any search must be conducted at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.**

DEFENDANT: JASON JOHNSON
CASE NUMBER: 1:19-CR-00129-TRM-SKL(1)

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CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the Schedule of Payments sheet of this judgment.

	Assessment	Restitution	Fine	AVAA Assessment*	JVTA Assessment **
TOTALS	\$200.00	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00	\$.00

- ☐ The determination of restitution is deferred until *An Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case (AO245C)* will be entered after such determination.
- ☐ The defendant must make restitution (including community restitution) to the following payees in the amount listed below.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment, unless specified otherwise in the priority order or percentage payment column below. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

- ☐ Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$

The defendant must pay interest on restitution and a fine of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options under the Schedule of Payments sheet of this judgment may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).

- ☐ The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:
- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the interest requirement is waived for the | <input type="checkbox"/> fine | <input type="checkbox"/> restitution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the interest requirement for the | <input type="checkbox"/> fine | <input type="checkbox"/> restitution is modified as follows: |

* Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-299.

** Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22.

*** Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

DEFENDANT: JASON JOHNSON
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SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties is due as follows:

- A** ☒ Lump sum payment of **\$200.00** due immediately, balance due
☐ not later than _____, or
☐ in accordance with ☐ C, ☐ D, ☐ E, or ☒ F below; or
- B** ☐ Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with ☐ C, ☐ D, or ☐ F below); or
- C** ☐ Payment in equal _____ (*e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly*) installments of \$ _____ over a period
of _____ (*e.g., months or years*), to commence _____ (*e.g., 30 or 60 days*) after the date of this judgment; or
- D** ☐ Payment in equal _____ (*e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly*) installments of \$ _____ over a period
of _____ (*e.g., months or years*), to commence _____ (*e.g., 30 or 60 days*) after release from imprisonment to a term of
supervision; or
- E** ☐ Payment during the term of supervised release will commence within _____ (*e.g., 30 or 60 days*) after release from
imprisonment. The court will set the payment plan based on an assessment of the defendant's ability to pay at that time; or
- F** ☒ Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties:

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are made to **U.S. District Court, 900 Georgia Avenue, Joel W. Solomon Federal Building, United States Courthouse, Chattanooga, TN, 37402**. Payments shall be in the form of a check or a money order, made payable to U.S. District Court, with a notation of the case number including defendant number.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

- ☐ Joint and Several
See above for Defendant and Co-Defendant Names and Case Numbers (*including defendant number*), Total Amount, Joint and Several Amount, and corresponding payee, if appropriate.
☐ Defendant shall receive credit on his restitution obligation for recovery from other defendants who contributed to the same loss that gave rise to defendant's restitution obligation.
- ☐ The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
- ☐ The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):
- ☐ The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) AVAA assessment, (5) fine principal, (6) fine interest, (7) community restitution, (8) JVT Assessment, (9) penalties, and (10) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.