

illinois Vs. Batchelder

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Decided On : Jul-06-1983

Appeal No. : 463 U.S. 1112

Appellant : illinois

Respondent : Batchelder

Judgement :

Illinois v. Batchelder - 463 U.S. 1112 (1983)

U.S. Supreme Court Illinois v. Batchelder, 463 U.S. 1112 (1983)

Illinois v. Batchelder

No. 82-947

Decided July 6, 1983

463 U.S. 1112

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE APPELLATE

COURT OF ILLINOIS, THIRD DISTRICT

SYLLABUS

Under Illinois' implied consent statute, if a driver, arrested for driving while intoxicated, refuses to take a breath analysis test, the arresting officer must file with the clerk of the appropriate circuit court an affidavit that includes the statement that the officer had "reasonable cause to believe the person was driving the motor vehicle . . . while under the influence of intoxicating liquor." The clerk must then notify the arrestee that his license will be suspended unless he requests a hearing within a specified time. Respondent refused to take a breath analysis test after he was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor, and the arresting officer filed an affidavit that included the assertion that, at the time of the arrest, he had "reasonable grounds to believe that said person was driving a motor vehicle in this State while under the influence of intoxicating liquor." Respondent exercised his statutory right to a hearing before suspension of his license. At the hearing, the judge found that the officer's affidavit did not comply with the statute, and entered an order denying the State's request for suspension of respondent's license. The Illinois Appellate Court, although concluding that the affidavit literally complied with the statute's requirements, held that the affidavit was insufficient under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments, and that the statute would be constitutional only if it required an arresting officer to set out in his affidavit the underlying circumstances which provided him with a reasonable belief that the arrestee was driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Held: Under the test set forth in *Mathews v. Eldridge*, [424 U. S. 319](#) , [424 U. S. 335](#) , the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment does not require an arresting officer, in enforcing Illinois' implied consent statute, to recite in his affidavit the specific evidentiary matters constituting the underlying circumstances which provided him with a reasonable belief that the arrestee was driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor. The driver's right to a hearing before he may be deprived of his license for failing to submit to a breath analysis test accords him all of the process that the Federal Constitution assures. *Cf. Mackey v. Montrym*, [443 U. S. 1](#) .

Certiorari granted; 107 Ill.App.3d 81, 437 N.E.2d 364, reversed and remanded.

PER CURIAM.

An Illinois statute, Ill.Rev.Stat, ch. 95 1/2, 501.1 (1981), provides that any person who drives an automobile in that State consents to take a breath analysis test when requested to do so by an officer as incident to an arrest for driving while intoxicated. [[Footnote 1](#)] The statute also prescribes the manner in which the test is to be administered, and provides a nine-point list of matters of which the arresting officer is to inform the arrestee, including the right to refuse to submit to a breath analysis and the fact that such a refusal may be admitted in evidence against him "in any hearing concerning the suspension, revocation or denial of his license or permit." 11-501.1(a)(4). Finally relevant for our purposes is subsection (d) of 11-501.1, which provides in pertinent part:

"The arresting officer shall file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the county in which the arrest was made, a sworn statement naming the person refusing to take and complete the test requested under the provisions of this Section. . . . Such sworn statement shall include a statement that the arresting officer had reasonable cause to believe the person was driving the motor vehicle within this State while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. . . ."

"The Clerk shall thereupon notify such person in writing that his privilege to operate a motor vehicle will be suspended unless, within 28 days from the date of mailing

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of the notice, he shall request in writing a hearing thereon. . . ."

". . . Such hearing shall proceed in the Court in the same manner as other civil proceedings, except that the scope of such proceedings shall cover only the issues of whether the person was placed under arrest for [driving while intoxicated], whether the arresting officer had reasonable grounds to believe that such person was driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, whether the person was informed orally and in writing as provided in paragraph (a) that his

privilege to operate a motor vehicle would be suspended if he refused to submit to and complete the test and whether, after being so advised, he refused to submit to and complete the test upon request of the officer. [[Footnote 2](#)]"

Respondent Milton D. Batchelder was stopped while driving his automobile by an officer of the Peoria, Illinois, Police Department after the officer observed respondent driving in a reckless and erratic manner. After completing the stop, the officer approached respondent, determined that he was intoxicated, and arrested him on the charge of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor. The officer thereafter requested that respondent take a breath analysis test. Respondent refused. The officer then executed and filed a sworn statement that read in pertinent part:

"I hereby certify that I have placed the above-named person under arrest, and that I had at the time of arrest reasonable grounds to believe that said person was driving a motor vehicle in this State while under the influence

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of intoxicating liquor in that: TRAVELING TOO FAST IN ALLEY WITH PEDESTRIANS AROUND, CROSSED WALNUT W/O SLOWING, MAINTAINED SPEED BEHIND SLIPPER CLUB THEN PARKED ABRUPTLY BEHIND 519 S.W. ADAMS. I further certify that said person did willfully refuse to submit to the breath analyses when requested to do so in accordance with Section 11-501.1 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, after being informed of the possible consequences of his or her refusal."

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To avoid having his license automatically suspended, respondent exercised his statutory right to request a hearing pursuant to 1111-501.1(d). Prior to taking evidence, the judge presiding at the hearing asked if there were any motions. Respondent's counsel moved to dismiss the officer's affidavit, quoted above, on the ground that it did not state any facts showing that respondent was under the influence of intoxicating liquor at the time of his arrest. The judge found that the

affidavit did not comply with 11-501.1(d), because it failed to state facts showing that respondent was under the influence of intoxicating liquor at the time of his arrest. An order was entered denying the State's request for suspension of respondent's license.

The State appealed, and the Appellate Court of Illinois, Third Judicial District, agreed with the trial court that the facts stated in the affidavit were insufficient to support the conclusion that respondent was intoxicated at the time he was arrested. 107 Ill.App.3d 81, 437 N.E.2d 364 (1982). The Appellate Court, however, held that the affidavit literally complied with the requirements of 501.1(d); that subsection requires only that the officer's affidavit state that he "had reasonable cause to believe the person was driving . . . while under the influence of intoxicating liquor." The affidavit nonetheless was deemed

"insufficient . . . due to its failure to comport with the United States Constitution, specifically,

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the fourth and fourteenth amendments thereof."

Id. at 83, 437 N.E.2d at 366.

Relying on our decision in *Delaware v. Prouse*, [440 U. S. 648](#) (1979), the Appellate Court opined that

"[t]he fourth and fourteenth amendments to the United States Constitution pertain to this situation because stopping an automobile and detaining its occupants constitute a 'seizure' within the meaning of those amendments. . . ."

107 Ill.App.3d at 84, 437 N.E.2d at 367. The court also relied on *Terry v. Ohio*, [392 U. S. 1](#) (1968), for the proposition that

"[t]he permissibility of a particular law enforcement practice is judged by balancing its intrusion on the individual's fourth amendment interests against its promotion of legitimate governmental interests."

107 Ill.App.3d at 84, 437 N.E.2d at 367. Applying this standard here, the Appellate Court held that 501.1(d) is constitutional only if it requires an arresting officer to set out, in his affidavit prepared pursuant to 501.1(d),

"the underlying circumstances which provided him with a reasonable belief that the arrested person was driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor."

Ibid.

In its application of the Federal Constitution to the Illinois implied consent statute, the Appellate Court inexplicably failed to look to how this Court undertook a similar task in *Mackey v. Montrym*, [443 U. S. 1](#) (1979). In *Mackey*, we held that the Massachusetts statute mandating suspension of a driver's license because of his refusal to take a breathanalysis test upon arrest for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor did not violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The procedures provided for in the Illinois implied consent statute are, if anything, even more solicitous of due process values than those we upheld in *Mackey*.

We noted in *Mackey* that "suspension of a driver's license for statutorily defined cause implicates a protectible property interest." *Id.* at [443 U. S. 10](#) . There, as here, the only question presented was "what process is due to protect against an erroneous

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deprivation of that interest." *Ibid.* [[Footnote 3](#)] We held that this question should be resolved by considering the following three factors:

"First, the private interest that will be affected by the official action; second, the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural safeguards; and finally, the Government's interest, including the function involved and the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substitute procedural requirement would entail."

Ibid., quoting *Mathews v. Eldridge*, [424 U. S. 319](#) , [424 U. S. 335](#) (1976). The analysis utilized in *Mackey* is equally applicable to and dispositive of this case.

First, the driver's interest in the continued possession and use of his license was recognized in *Mackey*. However, in undertaking the first step of the *Eldridge* balancing process in *Mackey*, our concern centered on "[t]he duration of any potentially wrongful deprivation of a property interest," 443 U.S. at [443 U. S. 12](#) . Under the Massachusetts statute, the license of a driver who refused to submit to a breath analysis test was suspended pending the outcome of a hearing that he was entitled to demand. There is no concern or risk under the Illinois statute that a driver will be deprived of his license

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prior to a hearing. Paragraph 11-501.1(d) clearly grants a driver the right to have a hearing *before* his license is suspended. Thus, respondent can seek no solace in the first step of the *Eldridge* analysis.

"[T]he second stage of the *Eldridge* inquiry requires consideration of the likelihood of an erroneous deprivation of the private interest involved as a consequence of the procedures used."

Mackey v. Montrym, 443 U.S. at [443 U. S. 13](#) . In *Mackey*, we noted that "*something less than an evidentiary hearing is sufficient prior to adverse administrative action.*" *Ibid.*, quoting *DiGon v. Love*, [431 U. S. 105](#) , [431 U. S. 113](#) (1977). Clearly, then, the fact that 11-501.1(d) provides for a predeprivation hearing abundantly weights this second part of the *Eldridge* analysis in favor of the constitutionality of the Illinois implied consent scheme.

"The third leg of the *Eldridge* balancing test requires us to identify the governmental function involved; also, to weigh in the balance the state interests served by the summary procedures used, as well as the administrative and fiscal burdens, if any, that would result from the substitute procedures sought."

Mackey v. Montrym, *supra*, at [443 U. S. 17](#) . The interest of the States in depriving the drunk driver of permission to continue operating an automobile is particularly strong. We recently commented on "[t]he carnage caused by drunk drivers" in *South Dakota v. Neville*, [459 U. S. 553](#) , [459 U. S. 558](#) (1983). See also *Mackey v. Montrym*, *supra*, at [443 U. S. 17](#) -18; *Perez v. Campbell*, [402 U. S. 637](#) , [402 U. S. 657](#) and [403 U. S. 672](#) (1971) (BLACKMUN, J., concurring); *Tate v. Short*, [401 U. S. 395](#) , [401 U. S. 401](#) (1971) (BLACKMUN, J., concurring); *Breithapt v. Abram*, [352 U. S. 432](#) , [352 U. S. 439](#) (1957). Indeed, it is the effect of the Appellate Court's opinion on the Illinois effort to halt this "carnage" that has prompted our summary action in this case. That interest is substantially served by the procedures outlined in 11-501.1(d). Again, the fact that we upheld a more summary procedure in *Mackey* refutes the suggestion that the Illinois scheme runs afoul of the *Eldridge* test.

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Accordingly, we conclude that the Constitution does not require arresting officers in Illinois, in enforcing that State's implied consent statute, to recite in an affidavit the specific and concrete evidentiary matters constituting "the underlying circumstances which provided him with a reasonable belief that the arrested person was driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor." 107 Ill.App. at 84, 437 N.E.2d at 367. The driver's right to a hearing before he may be deprived of his license for failing to submit to a breath analysis test accords him all of, and probably more than, the process that the Federal Constitution assures. The petition for certiorari is granted, the judgment of the Appellate Court of Illinois, Third Judicial District, is reversed, and the case is remanded for further proceedings not inconsistent with this opinion.

It is so ordered.

[[Footnote 1](#)]

Illinois Rev.Stat., ch. 95 1/2, 11-501.1 (1981), provides in pertinent part:

"Suspension of license -- Implied consent. (a) Any person who . . . drives a motor vehicle anywhere within this State thereby consents, under the terms of this Section, to take and complete a test or chemical analysis of his breath to determine the alcoholic content of his blood when made as an incident to and following his lawful arrest, evidenced by the issuance of a Uniform Traffic Ticket, for an offense defined in Section 11-501 of this Act [proscribing driving while intoxicated] or a similar provision of a municipal ordinance."

[[Footnote 2](#)]

Two implied consent statutes labeled ch. 95 1/2, 11-501.1, were passed by the Illinois General Assembly on the same day. The Appellate Court of Illinois in this case relied on the version we have quoted in text and in [463 U. S. 1](#), *supra*. In any event, the differences in language between the two statutes do not affect our analysis in this case. See Ill.Rev.Stat., ch. 1, 1105 (1981).

[[Footnote 3](#)]

The Appellate Court purported to rely on the Fourth, as well as the Fourteenth, Amendment. To the extent that there are Fourth Amendment interests at stake here, see *Delaware v. Prouse*, [440 U. S. 648](#) , [440 U. S. 662](#) -663 (1979), they are amply protected so long as the officer who arrested respondent had "at least articulable and reasonable suspicion that . . . [respondent was] subject to seizure for violation of law. . . ." *Id.* at 663. That fact would be determined at the hearing provided for under 11-501.1(d). The logical thrust of the Appellate Court's opinion is that respondent was somehow denied due process because the arresting officer's affidavit did not specify the grounds which led him to believe that respondent was driving under the influence of alcohol. We thus treat the Appellate Court's opinion as resting exclusively on due process grounds.

JUSTICE STEVENS, with whom JUSTICE BRENNAN and JUSTICE MARSHALL join, dissenting.

This case comes to us from an intermediate Illinois appellate court. It is a case that the Illinois Supreme Court declined to review. Its practical consequences concern

the amount of detail that Illinois police officers in the Third Appellate District must include in an affidavit supporting a petition to suspend a driver's license. In final analysis, the only question presented relates to how an Illinois statute is to be implemented in one part of the State. I suspect that the Illinois Supreme Court may have decided not to take this case because it preferred to address the question presented in a case in which both parties would be adequately represented.

The only paper filed in behalf of the losing party in this Court reads, in full, as follows:

"Court Clerk;"

"Re: Illinois vs: Milton D. Batchelder"

"No: 82-947"

"In regard to your letter of 3-31-83 pertaining to the above captioned matter. "

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"I have a heart problem and am unemployed."

"I do not have the funds to hire an attorney."

"Is it possible for the court to appoint me counsel or for the court to rule on the record that is on appeal?"

"I am unlearned at law and have had little formal education."

"Unless the court can give me some help I will not be able to pursue this matter."

"This letter written by;"

"Donald E. Worlow"

"302 Pontiac Rd."

"Marquette Hgts., Ill. 61554"

"For Milton D. Batchelder"

"/s/Milton Batchelder"

If a case is important enough to merit a decision on the merits by this Court, I believe it also should be important enough to justify the appointment of counsel to represent the party defending the judgment of the court below. I respectfully dissent from the Court's summary disposition.

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