

Maryland Vs. Shatzer

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Appeal No. : 08-680

Appellant : Maryland

Respondent : Shatzer

Judgement :

Maryland v. Shatzer - 08-680 (2010)

SYLLABUS

OCTOBER TERM, 2009

MARYLAND V. SHATZER

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MARYLAND v . SHATZER

certiorari to the court of appeals of maryland

No. 08-680.Argued October 5, 2009-Decided February 24, 2010

In 2003, a police detective tried to question respondent Shatzer, who was incarcerated at a Maryland prison pursuant to a prior conviction, about allegations

that he had sexually abused his son. Shatzer invoked his *Miranda* right to have counsel present during interrogation, so the detective terminated the interview. Shatzer was released back into the general prison population, and the investigation was closed. Another detective reopened the investigation in 2006 and attempted to interrogate Shatzer, who was still incarcerated. Shatzer waived his *Miranda* rights and made inculpatory statements. The trial court refused to suppress those statements, reasoning that *Edwards v. Arizona* , [451 U. S. 477](#) , did not apply because Shatzer had experienced a break in *Miranda* custody prior to the 2006 interrogation. Shatzer was convicted of sexual child abuse. The Court of Appeals of Maryland reversed, holding that the mere passage of time does not end the *Edwards* protections, and that, assuming, *arguendo* , a break-in-custody exception to *Edwards* existed, Shatzers release back into the general prison population did not constitute such a break.

Held: Because Shatzer experienced a break in *Miranda* custody lasting more than two weeks between the first and second attempts at interrogation, *Edwards* does not mandate suppression of his 2006 statements. Pp. 4-18.

(a) *Edwards* created a presumption that once a suspect invokes the *Miranda* right to the presence of counsel, any waiver of that right in response to a subsequent police attempt at custodial interrogation is involuntary. *Edwards* fundamental purpose is to [p]reserv[e] the integrity of an accuseds choice to communicate with police only through counsel, *Patterson v. Illinois* , [487 U. S. 285](#) , 291, by prevent[ing] police from badgering [him] into waiving his previously asserted *Miranda* rights, *Michigan v. Harvey* , [494 U. S. 344](#) , 350. It is easy to believe that a suspects later waiver was coerced or badgered when he has been held in uninterrupted *Miranda* custody since his first refusal to waive. He remains cut off from his normal life and isolated in a police-dominated atmosphere, *Miranda v. Arizona* , [384 U. S. 436](#) , 456, where his captors appear to control [his] fate, *Illinois v. Perkins* , [496 U. S. 292](#) , 297. But where a suspect has been released from custody and returned to his normal life for some time before the later attempted interrogation, there is little reason to think that his change of heart has been coerced. Because the *Edwards* presumption has been established by opinion of this Court, it is appropriate for this Court to specify the

period of release from custody that will terminate its application. See *County of Riverside v. McLaughlin* , [500 U. S. 44](#) . The Court concludes that the appropriate period is 14 days, which provides ample time for the suspect to get reacquainted to his normal life, consult with friends and counsel, and shake off any residual coercive effects of prior custody. Pp. 4-13.

(b) Shatzers release back into the general prison population constitutes a break in *Miranda* custody. Lawful imprisonment imposed upon conviction does not create the coercive pressures produced by investigative custody that justify *Edwards* . When previously incarcerated suspects are released back into the general prison population, they return to their accustomed surroundings and daily routine-they regain the degree of control they had over their lives before the attempted interrogation. Their continued detention is relatively disconnected from their prior unwillingness to cooperate in an investigation. The inherently compelling pressures of custodial interrogation ended when Shatzer returned to his normal life. Pp. 13-16.

405 Md. 585, 954 A. 2d 1118, reversed and remanded.

Scalia, J., delivered the opinion of the Court, in which Roberts, C. J., and Kennedy, Ginsburg, Breyer, Alito, and Sotomayor, JJ., joined, and in which Thomas, J., joined as to Part III. Thomas, J., filed an opinion concurring in part and concurring in the judgment. Stevens, J., filed an opinion concurring in the judgment.

Maryland v. Shatzer - 08-680 (2010)

OPINION OF THE COURT
MARYLAND V. SHATZER
559 U. S. ____ (2010)

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
NO. 08-680

MARYLAND, PETITIONER v. MICHAEL BLAINESHATZER, Sr.

on writ of certiorari to the court of appeals of maryland

[February 24, 2010]

Justice Scalia delivered the opinion of the Court.

We consider whether a break in custody ends the presumption of involuntariness established in *Edwards v. Arizona* , [451 U. S. 477](#) (1981).

I

In August 2003, a social worker assigned to the Child Advocacy Center in the Criminal Investigation Division of the Hagerstown Police Department referred to the department allegations that respondent Michael Shatzer, Sr., had sexually abused his 3-year-old son. At that time, Shatzer was incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown, serving a sentence for an unrelated child-sexual-abuse offense. Detective Shane Blankenship was assigned to the investigation and interviewed Shatzer at the correctional institution on August 7, 2003. Before asking any questions, Blankenship reviewed Shatzers *Miranda* rights with him, and obtained a written waiver of those rights. When Blankenship explained that he was there to question Shatzer about sexually abusing his son, Shatzer expressed confusion-he had thought Blankenship was an attorney there to discuss the prior crime for which he was incarcerated. Blankenship clarified the purpose of his visit, and Shatzer declined to speak without an attorney. Accordingly, Blankenship ended the interview, and Shatzer was released back into the general prison population. Shortly thereafter, Blankenship closed the investigation.

Two years and six months later, the same social worker referred more specific allegations to the department about the same incident involving Shatzer. Detective Paul Hoover, from the same division, was assigned to the investigation. He and the social worker interviewed the victim, then eight years old, who described the incident in more detail. With this new information in hand, on March 2, 2006, they went to the Roxbury Correctional Institute, to which Shatzer had since been

transferred, and interviewed Shatzer in a maintenance room outfitted with a desk and three chairs. Hoover explained that he wanted to ask Shatzer about the alleged incident involving Shatzers son. Shatzer was surprised because he thought that the investigation had been closed, but Hoover explained they had opened a new file. Hoover then read Shatzer his *Miranda* rights and obtained a written waiver on a standard department form.

Hoover interrogated Shatzer about the incident for approximately 30 minutes. Shatzer denied ordering his son to perform fellatio on him, but admitted to masturbating in front of his son from a distance of less than three feet. Before the interview ended, Shatzer agreed to Hoovers request that he submit to a polygraph examination. At no point during the interrogation did Shatzer request to speak with an attorney or refer to his prior refusal to answer questions without one.

Five days later, on March 7, 2006, Hoover and another detective met with Shatzer at the correctional facility to administer the polygraph examination. After reading Shatzer his *Miranda* rights and obtaining a written waiver, the other detective administered the test and concluded that Shatzer had failed. When the detectives then questioned Shatzer, he became upset, started to cry, and incriminated himself by saying, I didnt force him. I didnt force him. 405 Md. 585, 590, 954 A. 2d 1118, 1121 (2008). After making this inculpatory statement, Shatzer requested an attorney, and Hoover promptly ended the interrogation.

The States Attorney for Washington County charged Shatzer with second-degree sexual offense, sexual child abuse, second-degree assault, and contributing to conditions rendering a child in need of assistance. Shatzer moved to suppress his March 2006 statements pursuant to *Edwards* . The trial court held a suppression hearing and later denied Shatzers motion. The *Edwards* protections did not apply, it reasoned, because Shatzer had experienced a break in custody for *Miranda* purposes between the 2003 and 2006 interrogations. No. 21-K-06-37799 (Cir. Ct. Washington Cty., Md., Sept. 14, 2006), App. 55. Shatzer pleaded not guilty, waived his right to a jury trial, and proceeded to a bench trial based on an agreed statement of facts. In accordance with the agreement, the State described the interview with the victim and Shatzers 2006 statements to the detectives.

Based on the proffered testimony of the victim and the admission of the defendant as to the act of masturbation, the trial court found Shatzer guilty of sexual child abuse of his son.[[Footnote 1](#)] No. 21-K-06-37799 (Cir. Ct. Washington Cty., Md., Sept. 21, 2006), *id.* , at 70, 79.

Over the dissent of two judges, the Court of Appeals of Maryland reversed and remanded. The court held that the passage of time *alone* is insufficient to [end] the protections afforded by *Edwards* , and that, assuming, *arguendo*, a break-in-custody exception to *Edwards* existed, Shatzers release back into the general prison population between interrogations did not constitute a break in custody. 405 Md., at 606-607, 954 A. 2d, at 1131. We granted certiorari, 555 U. S. ____ (2009).

II

The Fifth Amendment, which applies to the States by virtue of the Fourteenth Amendment, *Malloy v. Hogan* , [378 U. S. 1](#) , 6 (1964), provides that [n]o person . . . shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself. U. S. Const., Amdt. 5. In *Miranda v. Arizona* , [384 U. S. 436](#) (1966), the Court adopted a set of prophylactic measures to protect a suspects Fifth Amendment right from the inherently compelling pressures of custodial interrogation. *Id.* , at 467. The Court observed that incommunicado interrogation in an unfamiliar, police-dominated atmosphere, *id.* , at 456-457, involves psychological pressures which work to undermine the individuals will to resist and to compel him to speak where he would not otherwise do so freely, *id.* , at 467. Consequently, it reasoned, [u]nless adequate protective devices are employed to dispel the compulsion inherent in custodial surroundings, no statement obtained from the defendant can truly be the product of his free choice. *Id.* , at 458.

To counteract the coercive pressure, *Miranda* announced that police officers must warn a suspect prior to questioning that he has a right to remain silent, and a right to the presence of an attorney. *Id.* , at 444. After the warnings are given, if the suspect indicates that he wishes to remain silent, the interrogation must cease. *Id.* , at 473-474. Similarly, if the suspect states that he wants an attorney, the interrogation must cease until an attorney is present. *Id.* , at 474. Critically, however, a suspect can waive these rights. *Id.* , at 475. To establish a valid

waiver, the State must show that the waiver was knowing, intelligent, and voluntary under the high standar[d] of proof for the waiver of constitutional rights [set forth in] *Johnson v. Zerbst* , [304 U. S. 458](#) (1938). *Id.*, at 475.

In *Edwards* , the Court determined that *Zerbst* 's traditional standard for waiver was not sufficient to protect a suspects right to have counsel present at a subsequent interrogation if he had previously requested counsel; additional safeguards were necessary. 451 U. S., at 484. The Court therefore superimposed a second layer of prophylaxis, *McNeil v. Wisconsin* , [501 U. S. 171](#) , 176 (1991). *Edwards* held:

[W]hen an accused has invoked his right to have counsel present during custodial interrogation, a valid waiver of that right cannot be established by showing only that he responded to further police-initiated custodial interrogation even if he has been advised of his rights. . . . [He] is not subject to further interrogation by the authorities until counsel has been made available to him, unless the accused himself initiates further communication, exchanges, or conversations with the police. 451 U. S., at 484-485.

The rationale of *Edwards* is that once a suspect indicates that he is not capable of undergoing [custodial] questioning without advice of counsel, any subsequent waiver that has come at the authorities behest, and not at the suspects own instigation, is itself the product of the inherently compelling pressures and not the purely voluntary choice of the suspect. *Arizona v. Roberson* , [486 U. S. 675](#) , 681 (1988). Under this rule, a voluntary *Miranda* waiver is sufficient at the time of an initial attempted interrogation to protect a suspects right to have counsel present, but it is not sufficient at the time of subsequent attempts if the suspect initially requested the presence of counsel. The implicit assumption, of course, is that the subsequent requests for interrogation pose a significantly greater risk of coercion. That increased risk results not only from the polices persistence in trying to get the suspect to talk, but also from the continued pressure that begins when the individual is taken into custody as a suspect and sought to be interrogated-pressure likely to increase as custody is prolonged, *Minnick v. Mississippi* , [498 U. S. 146](#) , 153 (1990). The *Edwards* presumption of involuntariness ensures

that police will not take advantage of the mounting coercive pressures of prolonged police custody, *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 686, by repeatedly attempting to question a suspect who previously requested counsel until the suspect is badgered into submission, *id.* , at 690 (Kennedy, J., dissenting).

We have frequently emphasized that the *Edwards* rule is not a constitutional mandate, but judicially prescribed prophylaxis. See, e.g. , *Montejo v. Louisiana* , 556 U. S. ___, ___ (2009) (slip op., at 7-8); *Michigan v. Harvey* , [494 U. S. 344](#) , 349 (1990); *Solem v. Stumes* , [465 U. S. 638](#) , 644, n. 4 (1984). Because *Edwards* is our rule, not a constitutional command, it is our obligation to justify its expansion. *Roberson* , *supra* , at 688 (Kennedy, J., dissenting). Lower courts have uniformly held that a break in custody ends the *Edwards* presumption, see, e.g. , *People v. Storm* , 28 Cal. 4th 1007, 1023-1024, and n. 6, 52 P. 3d 52, 61-62, and n. 6 (2002) (collecting state and federal cases), but we have previously addressed the issue only in dicta, see *McNeil* , *supra* , at 177 (*Edwards* applies assuming there has been no break in custody).

A judicially crafted rule is justified only by reference to its prophylactic purpose, *Davis v. United States* , [512 U. S. 452](#) , 458 (1994) (internal quotation marks omitted), and applies only where its benefits outweigh its costs, *Montejo* , *supra* , at ___ (slip op., at 14). We begin with the benefits. *Edwards* presumption of involuntariness has the incidental effect of conserv[ing] judicial resources which would otherwise be expended in making difficult determinations of voluntariness. *Minnick* , *supra* , at 151. Its fundamental purpose, however, is to [p]reserv[e] the integrity of an accused's choice to communicate with police only through counsel, *Patterson v. Illinois* , [487 U. S. 285](#) , 291 (1988), by prevent[ing] police from badgering a defendant into waiving his previously asserted *Miranda* rights, *Harvey* , *supra* , at 350. Thus, the benefits of the rule are measured by the number of coerced confessions it suppresses that otherwise would have been admitted. See *Montejo* , *supra* , at ___ (slip op., at 14).

It is easy to believe that a suspect may be coerced or badgered into abandoning his earlier refusal to be questioned without counsel in the paradigm *Edwards* case. That is a case in which the suspect has been arrested for a particular crime

and is held in uninterrupted pretrial custody while that crime is being actively investigated. After the initial interrogation, and up to and including the second one, he remains cut off from his normal life and companions, thrust into and isolated in an unfamiliar, police-dominated atmosphere, *Miranda* , 384 U. S., at 456-457, where his captors appear to control [his] fate, *Illinois v. Perkins* , [496 U. S. 292](#) , 297 (1990). That was the situation confronted by the suspects in *Edwards* , *Roberson* , and *Minnick* , the three cases in which we have held the *Edwards* rule applicable. Edwards was arrested pursuant to a warrant and taken to a police station, where he was interrogated until he requested counsel. *Edwards* , 451 U. S., at 478-479. The officer ended the interrogation and took him to the county jail,[[Footnote 2](#)] but at 9:15 the next morning, two of the officers colleagues reinterrogated Edwards at the jail. *Id.*, at 479. Roberson was arrested at the scene of a just-completed burglary and interrogated there until he requested a lawyer. *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 678. A different officer interrogated him three days later while he was still in custody pursuant to the arrest. *Ibid.* Minnick was arrested by local police and taken to the San Diego jail, where two FBI agents interrogated him the next morning until he requested counsel. *Minnick* , 498 U. S. , at 148-149. Two days later a Mississippi Deputy Sheriff reinterrogated him at the jail. *Id.* , at 149. None of these suspects regained a sense of control or normalcy after they were initially taken into custody for the crime under investigation.

When, unlike what happened in these three cases, a suspect has been released from his pretrial custody and has returned to his normal life for some time before the later attempted interrogation, there is little reason to think that his change of heart regarding interrogation without counsel has been coerced. He has no longer been isolated. He has likely been able to seek advice from an attorney, family members, and friends.[[Footnote 3](#)] And he knows from his earlier experience that he need only demand counsel to bring the interrogation to a halt; and that investigative custody does not last indefinitely. In these circumstances, it is far fetched to think that a police officers asking the suspect whether he would like to waive his *Miranda* rights will any more wear down the accused, *Smith v. Illinois* , [469 U. S. 91](#) , 98 (1984) (*per curiam*) , than did the first such request at the original attempted interrogation-which is of course not deemed coercive. His change of heart is less likely attributable to badgering than it is to the fact that

further deliberation in familiar surroundings has caused him to believe (rightly or wrongly) that cooperating with the investigation is in his interest. Uncritical extension of *Edwards* to this situation would not significantly increase the number of genuinely coerced confessions excluded. The justification for a conclusive presumption disappears when application of the presumption will not reach the correct result most of the time. *Coleman v. Thompson* , [501 U. S. 722](#) , 737 (1991).

At the same time that extending the *Edwards* rule yields diminished benefits, extending the rule also increases its costs: the in-fact voluntary confessions it excludes from trial, and the voluntary confessions it deters law enforcement officers from even trying to obtain. Voluntary confessions are not merely a proper element in law enforcement, *Miranda* , *supra* , at 478, they are an unmitigated good, *McNeil* , 501 U. S., at 181, essential to society's compelling interest in finding, convicting, and punishing those who violate the law, *ibid.* (quoting *Moran v. Burbine* , [475 U. S. 412](#) , 426 (1986)).

The only logical endpoint of *Edwards* disability is termination of *Miranda* custody and any of its lingering effects. Without that limitation-and barring some purely arbitrary time-limit[[Footnote 4](#)]-every *Edwards* prohibition of custodial interrogation of a particular suspect would be eternal. The prohibition applies, of course, when the subsequent interrogation pertains to a different crime, *Roberson* , *supra* , when it is conducted by a different law enforcement authority, *Minnick* , [498 U. S. 146](#) , and even when the suspect has met with an attorney after the first interrogation, *ibid.* And it not only prevents questioning *ex ante*; it would render invalid *ex post* , confessions invited and obtained from suspects who (unbeknownst to the interrogators) have acquired *Edwards* immunity previously in connection with any offense in any jurisdiction.[[Footnote 5](#)] In a country that harbors a large number of repeat offenders,[[Footnote 6](#)] this consequence is disastrous.

We conclude that such an extension of *Edwards* is not justified; we have opened its protective umbrella, *Solem* , 465 U. S., at 644, n. 4, far enough. The protections offered by *Miranda* , which we have deemed sufficient to ensure that

the police respect the suspects desire to have an attorney present the first time police interrogate him, adequately ensure that result when a suspect who initially requested counsel is reinterrogated after a break in custody that is of sufficient duration to dissipate its coercive effects.

If Shatzers return to the general prison population qualified as a break in custody (a question we address in Part III, *infra*), there is no doubt that it lasted long enough (2 years) to meet that durational requirement. But what about a break that has lasted only one year? Or only one week? It is impractical to leave the answer to that question for clarification in future case-by-case adjudication; law enforcement officers need to know, with certainty and beforehand, when renewed interrogation is lawful. And while it is certainly unusual for this Court to set forth precise time limits governing police action, it is not unheard-of. In *County of Riverside v. McLaughlin* , [500 U. S. 44](#) (1991), we specified 48 hours as the time within which the police must comply with the requirement of *Gerstein v. Pugh* , [420 U. S. 103](#) (1975), that a person arrested without a warrant be brought before a magistrate to establish probable cause for continued detention.

Like *McLaughlin* , this is a case in which the requisite police action (there, presentation to a magistrate; here, abstention from further interrogation) has not been prescribed by statute but has been established by opinion of this Court. We think it appropriate to specify a period of time to avoid the consequence that continuation of the *Edwards* presumption will not reach the correct result most of the time. *Coleman* , *supra* , at 737. It seems to us that period is 14 days. That provides plenty of time for the suspect to get reacclimated to his normal life, to consult with friends and counsel, and to shake off any residual coercive effects of his prior custody.

The 14-day limitation meets Shatzers concern that a break-in-custody rule lends itself to police abuse. He envisions that once a suspect invokes his *Miranda* right to counsel, the police will release the suspect briefly (to end the *Edwards* presumption) and then promptly bring him back into custody for reinterrogation. But once the suspect has been out of custody long enough (14 days) to eliminate its coercive effect, there will be nothing to gain by such gamesmanship-nothing,

that is, except the entirely appropriate gain of being able to interrogate a suspect who has made a valid waiver of his *Miranda* rights.[[Footnote 7](#)]

Shatzer argues that ending the *Edwards* protections at a break in custody will undermine *Edwards* purpose to conserve judicial resources. To be sure, we have said that [t]he merit of the *Edwards* decision lies in the clarity of its command and the certainty of its application. *Minnick* , 498 U. S., at 151. But clarity and certainty are not goals in themselves. They are valuable only when they reasonably further the achievement of some substantive end—here, the exclusion of compelled confessions. Confessions obtained after a 2-week break in custody and a waiver of *Miranda* rights are most unlikely to be compelled, and hence are unreasonably excluded. In any case, a break-in-custody exception will dim only marginally, if at all, the bright-line nature of *Edwards* . In every case involving *Edwards* , the courts must determine whether the suspect was in custody when he requested counsel and when he later made the statements he seeks to suppress. Now, in cases where there is an alleged break in custody, they simply have to repeat the inquiry for the time between the initial invocation and reinterrogation. In most cases that determination will be easy. And when it is determined that the defendant pleading *Edwards* has been out of custody for two weeks before the contested interrogation, the court is spared the fact-intensive inquiry into whether he ever, anywhere, asserted his *Miranda* right to counsel.

III

The facts of this case present an additional issue. No one questions that Shatzer was in custody for *Miranda* purposes during the interviews with Detective Blankenship in 2003 and Detective Hoover in 2006. Likewise, no one questions that Shatzer triggered the *Edwards* protections when, according to Detective Blankenship's notes of the 2003 interview, he stated that he would not talk about this case without having an attorney present, 405 Md., at 589, 954 A. 2d, at 1120. After the 2003 interview, Shatzer was released back into the general prison population where he was serving an unrelated sentence. The issue is whether that constitutes a break in *Miranda* custody.

We have never decided whether incarceration constitutes custody for *Miranda* purposes, and have indeed explicitly declined to address the issue. See *Perkins* , 496 U. S., at 299. See also *Bradley v. Ohio* , [497 U. S. 1011](#) , 1013 (1990) (Marshall, J., dissenting from denial of certiorari). Whether it does depends upon whether it exerts the coercive pressure that *Miranda* was designed to guard against-the danger of coercion [that] results from the *interaction* of custody and official interrogation. *Perkins* , *supra* , at 297 (emphasis added). To determine whether a suspect was in *Miranda* custody we have asked whether there is a formal arrest or restraint on freedom of movement of the degree associated with a formal arrest. *New York v. Quarles* , [467 U. S. 649](#) , 655 (1984); see also *Stansbury v. California* , [511 U. S. 318](#) , 322 (1994) (*per curiam*). This test, no doubt, is satisfied by all forms of incarceration. Our cases make clear, however, that the freedom-of-movement test identifies only a necessary and not a sufficient condition for *Miranda* custody. We have declined to accord it talismanic power, because *Miranda* is to be enforced only in those types of situations in which the concerns that powered the decision are implicated. *Berkemer v. McCarty* , [468 U. S. 420](#) , 437 (1984). Thus, the temporary and relatively nonthreatening detention involved in a traffic stop or *Terry* stop, see *Terry v. Ohio* , [392 U. S. 1](#) (1968), does not constitute *Miranda* custody. *McCarty* , *supra* , at 439-440. See also *Perkins* , *supra* , at 296.

Here, we are addressing the interim period during which a suspect was not interrogated, but was subject to a baseline set of restraints imposed pursuant to a prior conviction. Without minimizing the harsh realities of incarceration, we think lawful imprisonment imposed upon conviction of a crime does not create the coercive pressures identified in *Miranda* .

Interrogated suspects who have previously been convicted of crime live in prison. When they are released back into the general prison population, they return to their accustomed surroundings and daily routine-they regain the degree of control they had over their lives prior to the interrogation. Sentenced prisoners, in contrast to the *Miranda* paradigm, are not isolated with their accusers. They live among other inmates, guards, and workers, and often can receive visitors and communicate with people on the outside by mail or telephone.

Their detention, moreover, is relatively disconnected from their prior unwillingness to cooperate in an investigation. The former interrogator has no power to increase the duration of incarceration, which was determined at sentencing.[[Footnote 8](#)] And even where the possibility of parole exists, the former interrogator has no apparent power to decrease the time served. This is in stark contrast to the circumstances faced by the defendants in *Edwards* , *Roberson* , and *Minnick* , whose continued detention as suspects rested with those controlling their interrogation, and who confronted the uncertainties of what final charges they would face, whether they would be convicted, and what sentence they would receive.

Shatzers experience illustrates the vast differences between *Miranda* custody and incarceration pursuant to conviction. At the time of the 2003 attempted interrogation, Shatzer was already serving a sentence for a prior conviction. After that, he returned to the general prison population in the Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown and was later transferred, for unrelated reasons, down the street to the Roxbury Correctional Institute. Both are medium-security state correctional facilities. See Maryland Div. of Correction Inmate Handbook 7 (2007), online at http://dpscs.md.gov/rehabservs/doc/pdfs/2007_Inmate_Handbook.pdf (all Internet materials as visited Feb. 22, 2010, and available in Clerk of Courts case file). Inmates in these facilities generally can visit the library each week, *id.* , at 28; have regular exercise and recreation periods, *id.* , at 17; can participate in basic adult education and occupational training, *id.* , at 26, 7; are able to send and receive mail, *id.* , at 21-22, 16; and are allowed to receive visitors twice a week, see <http://dpscs.md.gov/locations/mcih.shtml>; <http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/locations/rci.shtml>. His continued detention after the 2003 interrogation did not depend on what he said (or did not say) to Detective Blankenship, and he has not alleged that he was placed in a higher level of security or faced any continuing restraints as a result of the 2003 interrogation. The inherently compelling pressures of custodial interrogation ended when he returned to his normal life.

A few words in response to Justice Stevens concurrence: It claims we ignore that [w]hen police tell an indigent suspect that he has the right to an attorney and then reinterrogate him without providing a lawyer, the suspect is likely to feel that the police lied to him and that he really does not have any right to a lawyer. *Post* , at 2 (opinion concurring in judgment) (hereinafter concurrence). See also *post* , at 4, 7, n. 11, 11, n. 16. The fallacy here is that we are not talking about reinterrogating the suspect; we are talking about *asking his permission* to be interrogated. An officer has in no sense lied to a suspect when, after advising, as *Miranda* requires, You have the right to remain silent, and if you choose to speak you have the right to the presence of an attorney, he promptly ends the attempted interrogation because the suspect declines to speak without counsel present, and then, two weeks later, reapproaches the suspect and asks, Are you now willing to speak without a lawyer present?

The concern that motivated the *Edwards* line of cases, *post* , at 2-3, n. 2, is that the suspect will be coerced into saying yes. That concern guides our decision today. Contrary to the concurrence's conclusion, *post* , at 3, 5-6, there is no reason to believe a suspect will view confession as the only way to end his interrogation when, before the interrogation begins, he is told that he can avoid it by simply requesting that he not be interrogated without counsel present-an option that worked before. If, as the concurrence argues will often be the case, *post* , at 5, a break in custody does not change the suspect's mind, he need only say so.

The concurrence also accuses the Court of ignor[ing] that when a suspect asks for counsel, until his request is answered, there are still the same inherently compelling pressures of custodial interrogation on which the *Miranda* line of cases is based. *Post* , at 4. We do not ignore these pressures; nor do we suggest that they disappear when custody is recommenced after a break, see *post* , at 5. But if those pressures are merely the same as before, then *Miranda* provides sufficient protection-as it did before. The *Edwards* presumption of involuntariness is justified only in circumstances where the coercive pressures have increased so much that suspects' waivers of *Miranda* rights are likely to be involuntary most of the time. Contrary to the concurrence's suggestion, *post* , at 3, it is only in those narrow circumstances-when custody is unbroken-that the Court has concluded a

fresh se[t] of *Miranda* warnings is not sufficient. See *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 686.

In the last analysis, it turns out that the concurrence accepts our principal points. It agrees that *Edwards* prophylaxis is not perpetual; it agrees that a break in custody reduces the inherently compelling pressure upon which *Edwards* was based; it agrees that Shatzers release back into the general prison population constituted a break in custody; and it agrees that in this case the break was long enough to render *Edwards* inapplicable. *Post* , at 10-12. We differ in two respects: Instead of terminating *Edwards* protection when the custodial pressures that were the basis for that protection dissipate, the concurrence would terminate it when the suspect would no longer feel that he has been denied the counsel he has clearly requested, *post* , at 11. This is entirely unrelated to the rationale of *Edwards* . If confidence in the polices promise to provide counsel were the touchstone, *Edwards* would not have applied in *Minnick* , where the suspect in continuing custody actually met with appointed counsel. The concurrences rule is also entirely unrelated to the existence of a break in custody. While that may relieve the accumulated coercive pressures of custody that are the foundation for *Edwards* , it is hard to see how it bolsters the suspects confidence that if he asks for counsel he will get one.

And secondly, the concurrence differs from us in declining to say *how long* after a break in custody the termination of *Edwards* protection occurs. Two and one-half years, it says, is clearly enough-but it gives law enforcement authorities no further guidance. The concurrence criticizes our use of 14 days as arbitrary and unexplained, *post* , at 5, and n. 7. But in fact that rests upon the same basis as the concurrences own approval of a 2 1 2-year break in custody: how much time will justify treating the second interrogation as no more coercive than the first, *post*, at 10. Failure to say where the line falls short of 2 1 2 years, and leaving that for future case-by-case determination, is certainly less helpful, but not at all less arbitrary.

Because Shatzer experienced a break in *Miranda* custody lasting more than two weeks between the first and second attempts at interrogation, *Edwards* does not mandate suppression of his March 2006 statements. Accordingly, we reverse the judgment of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and remand the case for further proceedings not inconsistent with this opinion.

It is so ordered.

[Footnote 1](#)

The State filed a *nolle prosequi* to the second-degree sexual offense charge, and consented to dismissal of the misdemeanor charges as barred by the statute of limitations.

[Footnote 2](#)

Jail is a local governments detention center where persons awaiting trial or those convicted of misdemeanors are confined. Blacks Law Dictionary 910 (9th ed. 2009). Prison, by contrast, is a state or federal facility of confinement for convicted criminals, esp. felons. *Id.* , at 1314.

[Footnote 3](#)

Justice Stevens points out, *post* , at 7 (opinion concurring in judgment), that in *Minnick* , actual pre-reinterrogation consultation with an attorney during *continued* custody did not suffice to avoid application of *Edwards* . That does not mean that the ability to consult freely with attorneys and others does not reduce the level of coercion at all, or that it is only questionably relevant, *post* , at 7, to whether termination of custody reduces the coercive pressure that is the basis for *Edwards* super-prophylactic rule.

[Footnote 4](#)

The States alternative argument in the present case is that the substantial lapse in time between the 2003 and 2006 attempts at interrogation independently ended the *Edwards* presumption. Our disposition makes it unnecessary to address that argument.

[Footnote 5](#)

This assumes that *Roberson*'s extension of *Edwards* to subsequent interrogation for a different crime, and *Minnick*'s extension of *Edwards* to subsequent interrogation by a different law enforcement agency would apply even when the place of custody and the identity of the custodial agency are not the same (as they were in *Roberson* and *Minnick*) as those of the original interrogation. That assumption would seem reasonable if the *Edwards*-suspending effect of a termination of custody is rejected. Reinterrogation in different custody or by a different interrogating agency would seem, if anything, *less* likely than termination of custody to reduce coercive pressures. At the original site, and with respect to the original interrogating agency, the suspect has already experienced cessation of interrogation when he demands counsel-which he may have no reason to expect elsewhere.

[Footnote 6](#)

According to a recent study, 67.5% of prisoners released from 15 States in 1994 were rearrested within three years. See Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report, Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994 (NCJ 193427, 2002).

[Footnote 7](#)

A defendant who experiences a 14-day break in custody after invoking the *Miranda* right to counsel is not left without protection. *Edwards* establishes a *presumption* that a suspect's waiver of *Miranda* rights is involuntary. See *Arizona v. Roberson*, [486 U. S. 675](#), 681 (1988). Even without this second layer of prophylaxis, *McNeil v. Wisconsin*, [501 U. S. 171](#), 176 (1991), a defendant is still free to claim the prophylactic protection of *Miranda*-arguing that his waiver of *Miranda* rights was in fact involuntary under *Johnson v. Zerbst*, [304 U. S. 458](#) (1938). See *Miranda*, 384 U. S., at 475.

[Footnote 8](#)

We distinguish the duration of incarceration from the duration of what might be termed interrogative custody. When a prisoner is removed from the general prison population and taken to a separate location for questioning, the duration of *that separation* is assuredly dependent upon his interrogators. For which reason once

he has asserted a refusal to speak without assistance of counsel *Edwards* prevents any efforts to get him to change his mind during that interrogative custody.

Maryland v. Shatzer - 08-680 (2010)

OPINION OF THOMAS, J.
MARYLAND V. SHATZER
559 U. S. ____ (2010)
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
NO. 08-680

MARYLAND, PETITIONER v. MICHAEL BLAINESHATZER, Sr.

on writ of certiorari to the court of appeals of maryland

[February 24, 2010]

Justice Thomas, concurring in part and concurring in the judgment.

I join Part III of the Courts opinion, which holds that release into the general prison population constitutes a break in custody. I do not join the Courts decision to extend the presumption of involuntariness established in *Edwards v. Arizona* , [451 U. S. 477](#) (1981), for 14 days after custody ends.

It is not apparent to me that the presumption of involuntariness the Court recognized in *Edwards* is justifiable even in the custodial setting to which *Edwards* applies it. See, e.g., *Minnick v. Mississippi* , [498 U. S. 146](#) , 160 (1990) (Scalia, J., dissenting). Accordingly, I would not extend the *Edwards* rule beyond the circumstances present in *Edwards* itself. *Id.* , at 162. But even if one believes that the Court is obliged to apply *Edwards* to any case involving continuing custody, the Courts opinion today goes well beyond that. It extends the presumption of involuntariness *Edwards* applies in custodial settings to

interrogations that occur after custody ends.

The Court concedes that this extension, like the *Edwards* presumption itself, is not constitutionally required. The Court nevertheless defends the extension as a judicially created prophylaxis against compelled confessions. Even if one accepts that such prophylaxis is both permissible generally and advisable for some period following a break in custody,[[Footnote 1](#)] the Courts 14-day rule fails to satisfy the criteria our precedents establish for the judicial creation of such a safeguard.

Our precedents insist that judicially created prophylactic rules like those in *Edwards* and *Miranda v. Arizona* , [384 U. S. 436](#) (1966), maintain the closest possible fit between the rule and the Fifth Amendment interests they seek to protect. *United States v. Patane* , 542 U. S. 630 , 640-641 (2004) (plurality opinion); see generally *Montejo v. Louisiana* , 556 U. S. ___, ___ (2009) (slip op., at 18); *Chavez v. Martinez* , [538 U. S. 760](#) , 772 (2003) (plurality opinion). The Courts 14-day rule does not satisfy this test. The Court relates its 14-day rule to the Fifth Amendment simply by asserting that 14 days between release and recapture should provide plenty of time for the suspect to shake off any residual coercive effects of his prior custody, *ante* , at 11.

This *ipse dixit* does not explain why extending the *Edwards* presumption for 14 days following a break in custody-as opposed to 0, 10, or 100 days-provides the closest possible fit with the Self-Incrimination Clause, *Patane* , *supra* , at 640-641; see *ante* , at 11 (merely stating that [i]t seems to us that the appropriate period is 14 days). Nor does it explain how the benefits of a prophylactic 14-day rule (either on its own terms or compared with other possible rules) outweigh its costs (which would include the loss of law enforcement information as well as the exclusion of confessions that are in fact voluntary). *Ante* , at 6 (citing *Montejo* , *supra* , at ___ (slip op., at 14)).

To be sure, the Courts rule has the benefit of providing a bright line. *Ante* , at 12. But bright-line rules are not necessary to prevent Fifth Amendment violations, as the Court has made clear when refusing to adopt such rules in cases involving other *Miranda* rights. See, e.g ., *Michigan v. Mosley* , [423 U. S. 96](#) , 103-104 (1975). And an otherwise arbitrary rule is not justifiable merely because it gives

clear instruction to law enforcement officers.[[Footnote 2](#)]

As the Court concedes, clarity and certainty are not goals in themselves. They are valuable only when they reasonably further the achievement of some substantive end—here, the exclusion of compelled confessions that the Fifth Amendment prohibits. *Ante* , at 12. The Court's arbitrary 14-day rule fails this test, even under the relatively permissive criteria set forth in our precedents. Accordingly, I do not join that portion of the Court's opinion.

[Footnote 1](#)

At a minimum the latter proposition is questionable. I concede that some police officers might badger a suspect during a subsequent interrogation after a break in custody, or might use catch-and-release tactics to suggest they will not take no for an answer. But if a suspect reenters custody after being questioned and released, he need only invoke his right to counsel to ensure *Edwards* protection for the duration of the subsequent detention. And, if law enforcement officers repeatedly release and recapture a suspect to wear down his will—such that his participation in a subsequent interrogation is no longer truly voluntary—the high standard of proof for the waiver of constitutional rights [set forth in] *Johnson v. Zerbst* , [304 U. S. 458](#) (1938), will protect against the admission of the suspect's statements in court. *Miranda v. Arizona* , [384 U. S. 436](#) , 475 (1966). The *Zerbst* inquiry takes into account the totality of the circumstances surrounding the waiver—including any improper pressures by police. See *id.* , at 464; cf. *ante* , at 11–12, n. 6 (stating that [e]ven without [*Edwards*] second layer of prophylaxis, a defendant is still free to claim the prophylactic protection of *Miranda* —arguing that his waiver of *Miranda* rights was in fact involuntary under *Johnson v. Zerbst* (internal quotation marks and citation omitted)).

[Footnote 2](#)

Though the Court asserts that its 14-day rule will tell law enforcement officers . . . with certainty and beforehand, when renewed interrogation is lawful, *ante* , at 10, that is not so clear. Determining whether a suspect was previously in custody, and when the suspect was released, may be difficult without questioning the suspect, especially if state and federal authorities are conducting simultaneous

investigations.

Maryland v. Shatzer - 08-680 (2010)

STEVENS, J., CONCURRING IN JUDGMENT
MARYLAND V. SHATZER
559 U. S. ____ (2010)
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
NO. 08-680

MARYLAND, PETITIONER v. MICHAEL BLAINESHATZER, Sr.

on writ of certiorari to the court of appeals of maryland

[February 24, 2010]

Justice Stevens, concurring in the judgment.

While I agree that the presumption from *Edwards v. Arizona* , [451 U. S. 477](#) (1981), is not eternal, *ante* , at 9-10, and does not mandate suppression of Shatzers statement made after a 2-year break in custody, I do not agree with the Courts newly announced rule: that *Edwards always* ceases to apply when there is a 14-day break in custody, *ante* , at 11.

In conducting its cost-benefit analysis, the Court demeans *Edwards* as a second layer of judicially prescribed prophylaxis, *ante* , at 5, 6, 12, n. 7; see also *ante* , at 6 (describing *Edwards* as our rule, not a constitutional command (quoting *Arizona v. Roberson* , [486 U. S. 675](#) , 688 (1988) (Kennedy, J., dissenting))). The source of the holdings in the long line of cases that includes both *Edwards* and *Miranda* , however, is the Fifth Amendments protection against compelled self-incrimination applied to the compulsion inherent in custodial interrogation, *Miranda v. Arizona* , [384 U. S. 436](#) , 458 (1966), and the significan[ce] of the

assertion of the right to counsel, *Edwards* , 451 U. S., at 485.[[Footnote 1](#)] The Courts analysis today is insufficiently sensitive to the concerns that motivated the *Edwards* line of cases.

I

The most troubling aspect of the Courts time-based rule is that it disregards the compulsion caused by a second (or third, or fourth) interrogation of an indigent suspect who was told that if he requests a lawyer, one will be provided for him. When police tell an indigent suspect that he has the right to an attorney, that he is not required to speak without an attorney present, and that an attorney will be provided to him at no cost before questioning, the police have made a significant promise. If they cease questioning and then reinterrogate the suspect 14 days later without providing him with a lawyer, the suspect is likely to feel that the police lied to him and that he really does not have any right to a lawyer.[[Footnote 2](#)]

When officers informed Shatzer of his rights during the first interrogation, they presumably informed him that if he requested an attorney, one would be appointed for him before he was asked any further questions. But if an indigent suspect requests a lawyer, any further interrogation (even 14 days later) without counsel having been provided will surely exacerbate whatever compulsion to speak the suspect may be feeling. *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 686. When police have not honored an earlier commitment to provide a detainee with a lawyer, the detainee likely will understand his (expressed) wishes to have been ignored and may well see further objection as futile and confession (true or not) as the only way to end his interrogation. *Davis v. United States* , [512 U. S. 452](#) , 472-473 (1994) (Souter, J., concurring in judgment). Cf. *Cooper v. Dupnik* , 963 F. 2d 1220, 1225 (CA9 1992) (en banc) (describing an elaborate police task force plan to ignore a suspects requests for counsel, on the theory that such would induce hopelessness and thereby elicit an admission). Simply giving a fresh se[t] of *Miranda* warnings will not reassure a suspect who has been denied the counsel he has clearly requested that his rights have remained untrammelled. *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 686.

The Court never explains why its rule cannot depend on, in addition to a break in custody and passage of time, a concrete event or state of affairs, such as the police having honored their commitment to provide counsel. Instead, the Court simply decides to create a time-based rule, and in so doing, disregards much of the analysis upon which *Edwards* and subsequent decisions were based. [T]he assertion of the right to counsel [i]s a significant event.[[Footnote 3](#)] *Edwards* , 451 U. S., at 485. As the Court today acknowledges, the right to counsel, like the right to remain silent, is one that police may coerc[e] or badge[r], *ante* , at 7, a suspect into abandoning.[[Footnote 4](#)] However, as discussed above, the Court ignores the effects not of badgering but of reinterrogating a suspect who took the police at their word that he need not answer questions without an attorney present. See *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 686. The Court, moreover, ignores that when a suspect asks for counsel, until his request is answered, there are still the same inherently compelling pressures of custodial interrogation on which the *Miranda* line of cases is based, see 486 U. S., at 681,[[Footnote 5](#)] and that the concern about compulsion is especially serious for a detainee who has requested a lawyer, an act that signals his inability to cope with the pressures of custodial interrogation, *id.* , at 686.[[Footnote 6](#)]

Instead of deferring to these well-settled understandings of the *Edwards* rule, the Court engages in its own speculation that a 14-day break in custody eliminates the compulsion that animated *Edwards*. But its opinion gives no strong basis for believing that this is the case.[[Footnote 7](#)] A 14-day break in custody does not eliminate the rationale for the initial *Edwards* rule: The detainee has been told that he may remain silent and speak only through a lawyer and that if he cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for him. He has asked for a lawyer. He does not have one. He is in custody. And police are still questioning him. A 14-day break in custody does not change the fact that custodial interrogation is inherently compelling. It is unlikely to change the fact that a detainee considers himself unable to deal with the pressures of custodial interrogation without legal assistance. *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 683.[[Footnote 8](#)] And in some instances,

a 14-day break in custody may make matters worse [[Footnote 9](#)] [w]hen a suspect understands his (expressed) wishes to have been ignored and thus may well see further objection as futile and confession (true or not) as the only way to end his interrogation. *Davis* , 512 U. S., at 472-473 (Souter, J., concurring in judgment).[[Footnote 10](#)]

The Court ignores these understandings from the *Edwards* line of cases and instead speculates that if a suspect is reinterrogated and eventually talks, it must be that further deliberation in familiar surroundings has caused him to believe (rightly or wrongly) that cooperating with the investigation is in his interest. *Ante* , at 9. But it is not apparent why that is the case. The answer, we are told, is that once a suspect has been out of *Miranda* custody for 14 days, [h]e has likely been able to seek advice from an attorney, family members, and friends. *Ante* , at 8. This speculation, however, is overconfident and only questionably relevant. As a factual matter, we do not know whether the defendant has been able to seek advice: First of all, suspects are told that if they cannot afford a lawyer, one will be provided for them. Yet under the majority's rule, an indigent suspect who took the police at their word when he asked for a lawyer will nonetheless be assumed to have been able to seek advice from an attorney. Second, even suspects who are not indigent cannot necessarily access legal advice (or social advice as the Court presumes) within 14 days. Third, suspects may not realize that they *need* to seek advice from an attorney. Unless police warn suspects that the interrogation will resume in 14 days, why contact a lawyer? When a suspect is let go, he may assume that the police were satisfied. In any event, it is not apparent why interim advice matters.[[Footnote 11](#)] In *Minnick v. Mississippi* , [498 U. S. 146](#) , 153 (1990), we held that it is not sufficient that a detainee happened to speak at some point with a lawyer. See *ibid.* (noting that consultation with an attorney does not prevent persistent attempts by officials to persuade [a suspect] to waive his rights or shield against the coercive pressures that accompany custody). If the actual interim advice of an attorney is not sufficient, the hypothetical, interim advice of an attorney, family members, and friends, *ante* , at 8, is not enough.

The many problems with the Courts new rule are exacerbated in the very situation in this case: a suspect who is in prison. Even if, as the Court assumes, a trip to ones home significantly changes the *Edwards* calculus, a trip to ones prison cell is not the same. A prisoners freedom is severely limited, and his entire life remains subject to government control. Such an environment is not conducive to shak[ing] off any residual coercive effects of his prior custody. *Ante* , at 11.[[Footnote 12](#)] Nor can a prisoner easily seek advice from an attorney, family members, and friends, *ante* , at 8, especially not within 14 days; prisoners are frequently subject to restrictions on communications. Nor, in most cases, can he live comfortably knowing that he cannot be badgered by police; prison is not like a normal situation in which a suspect is in control, and need only shut his door or walk away to avoid police badgering. *Montejo v. Louisiana* , 556 U. S. ___, ___ (2009) (slip op., at 16). Indeed, for a person whose every move is controlled by the State, it is likely that his sense of dependence on, and trust in, counsel as the guardian of his interests in dealing with government officials intensified. *United States v. Green* , 592 A. 2d 985, 989 (D. C. 1991); cf. *Minnick* , 498 U. S., at 153 (explaining that coercive pressures may increase as custody is prolonged).[[Footnote 13](#)] The Court ignores these realities of prison, and instead rests its argument on the supposition that a prisoners detention is relatively disconnected from their prior unwillingness to cooperate in an investigation. *Ante* , at 14. But that is not necessarily the case. Prisoners are uniquely vulnerable to the officials who control every aspect of their lives; prison guards may not look kindly upon a prisoner who refuses to cooperate with police. And cooperation frequently is relevant to whether the prisoner can obtain parole. See, e.g. , Code of Md. Regs., tit. 12, 08.01.18(A)(3) (2008). Moreover, even if it is true as a factual matter that a prisoners fate is not controlled by the police who come to interrogate him, how is the prisoner supposed to know that? As the Court itself admits, compulsion is likely when a suspects captors appear to control [his] fate, *ante* , at 7 (internal quotation marks omitted). But when a guard informs a suspect that he must go speak with police, it will appear to the prisoner that the guard and police are not independent. Questioning by captors, who *appear* to control the suspects fate, may create mutually reinforcing pressures that the Court has assumed will weaken the suspects will. *Illinois v. Perkins* , [496 U. S. 292](#) , 297 (1990) (emphasis

added).[[Footnote 14](#)]

III

Because, at the very least, we do not know whether Shatzer could obtain a lawyer, and thus would have felt that police had lied about providing one, I cannot join the Courts opinion. I concur in todays judgment, however, on another ground: Even if Shatzer could not consult a lawyer and the police never provided him one, the 2-year break in custody is a basis for treating the second interrogation as no more coercive than the first. Neither a break in custody nor the passage of time has an inherent, curative power. But certain things change over time. An indigent suspect who took police at their word that they would provide an attorney probably will feel that he has been denied the counsel he has clearly requested, *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 686, when police begin to question him, without a lawyer, only 14 days later.[[Footnote 15](#)] But, when a suspect has been left alone for a significant period of time, he is not as likely to draw such conclusions when the police interrogate him again.[[Footnote 16](#)] It is concededly impossible to determine with precision where to draw such a line. *Barker v. Wingo* , [407 U. S. 514](#) , 521 (1972). In the case before us, however, the suspect was returned to the general prison population for 2 years. I am convinced that this period of time is sufficient. I therefore concur in the judgment.

[Footnote 1](#)

See *Dickerson v. United States* , [530 U. S. 428](#) , 438 (2000) (holding that the protections announced in *Miranda* are constitutionally required); *Shea v. Louisiana* , [470 U. S. 51](#) , 52 (1985) (In *Edwards* , this Court ruled that a criminal defendants rights under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments were violated by the use of his confession obtained by police-instigated interrogation-without counsel present-after he requested an attorney); *Oregon v. Bradshaw* , [462 U. S. 1039](#) , 1043 (1983) (plurality opinion) ([The] subsequent incriminating statements made without [an] attorney present violated the rights secured to the defendant by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution); *Miranda* , 384 U. S., at 458 (examining the history and precedent underlying the Self-Incrimination Clause to determine its applicability in this

situation).

[Footnote 2](#)

The Court states that this argument rests on a fallacy because we are not talking about reinterrogating the suspect; we are talking about asking his permission to be interrogated. *Ante* , at 16 (emphasis deleted). Because, however, a suspect always has the right to remain silent, this is a distinction without a difference: Any time that the police interrogate or reinterrogate, and read a suspect his *Miranda* rights, the suspect may decline to speak. And if this is a fallacy, it is the same fallacy upon which this Court has relied in the *Edwards* line of cases that held that police may not continue to interrogate a suspect who has requested a lawyer: Police may not continue to ask such a suspect whether they may interrogate him until that suspect has a lawyer present. The Courts apparent belief that this is a fallacy only underscores my concern that its analysis is insufficiently sensitive to the concerns that motivated the *Edwards* line of cases.

[Footnote 3](#)

Indeed, a lawyer has a unique ability to protect the Fifth Amendment rights of a client undergoing custodial interrogation. *Fare v. Michael C.* , [442 U. S. 707](#) , 719 (1979). Counsel can curb an officers overbearing conduct, advise a suspect of his rights, and ensure that there is an accurate record of any interrogation. Because of this special ability of the lawyer to help the client preserve his Fifth Amendment rights once the client becomes enmeshed in the adversary process, the Court found that the right to have counsel present at the interrogation is indispensable to the protection of the Fifth Amendment privilege. *Arizona v. Roberson* , [486 U. S. 675](#) , 682, n. 4 (1988) (internal quotation marks omitted). Thus, once the accused has requested counsel, courts must be especially wary of coercive form[s] of custodial interrogation. *Bradshaw* , 462 U. S., at 1051 (Powell, J., concurring in judgment).

[Footnote 4](#)

See *Michigan v. Harvey* , [494 U. S. 344](#) , 350 (1990) (subsequent confession suggests the police badger[ed] a defendant into waiving his previously asserted *Miranda* rights).

Footnote 5

See *Minnick v. Mississippi* , [498 U. S. 146](#) , 155 (1990) ([N]either admissions nor waivers are effective unless there are both particular and systemic assurances that the coercive pressures of custody were not the inducing cause); cf. *Smith v. Illinois* , [469 U. S. 91](#) , 98 (1984) (*per curiam*) ([T]he authorities through badger[ing] or overreaching-explicit or subtle, deliberate or unintentional-might otherwise wear down the accused and persuade him to incriminate himself notwithstanding his earlier request for counsels assistance).

Footnote 6

See *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 681 ([I]f a suspect believes that he is not capable of undergoing such questioning without advice of counsel, then it is presumed that any subsequent waiver that has come at the authorities behest, and not at the suspects own instigation, is itself the product of the inherently compelling pressures); *Michigan v. Mosley* , [423 U. S. 96](#) , 110, n. 2 (1975) (White, J., concurring in result) ([T]he accused having expressed his own view that he is not competent to deal with the authorities without legal advice, a later decision at the authorities insistence to make a statement without counsels presence may properly be viewed with skepticism).

Footnote 7

Today's decision, moreover, offers no reason for its 14-day time period. To be sure, it may be difficult to marshal conclusive evidence when setting an arbitrary time period. But in light of the basis for *Edwards* , we should tread carefully. Instead, the only reason for choosing a 14-day time period, the Court tells us, is that [i]t seems to us that period is 14 days. *Ante* , at 11. That time period is plenty of time for the suspect to get reacclimated to his normal life, to consult with friends and counsel, and to shake off any residual coercive effects of his prior custody. *Ibid.* But the Court gives no reason for that speculation, which may well prove inaccurate in many circumstances.

Footnote 8

In *Roberson* , for example, we observed that once a suspect has asserted his right to an attorney, courts must presume he does not feel sufficiently comfortable with the pressures of custodial interrogation to answer questions without an attorney. This discomfort is precisely the state of mind that *Edwards* presumes to persist . 486 U. S., at 684. We held in *Roberson* that just because different police come to speak about a different investigation, that presumption does not change: [T]here is no reason to assume that a suspects state of mind is in any way investigation-specific. *Ibid* . Nor is there any reason to believe that it is arrest specific.

[Footnote 9](#)

The compulsion is heightened by the fact that [t]he uncertainty of fate that being released from custody and then reapprehended entails is, in some circumstances, more coercive than continual custody. Strauss, Reinterrogation, 22 Hastings Const. L. Q. 359, 390 (1995).

[Footnote 10](#)

Not only is this a likely effect of reinterrogation, but police may use this effect to their advantage. Indeed, the Courts rule creates a strange incentive to delay formal proceedings, in order to gain additional information by way of interrogation after the time limit lapses. The justification for Fifth Amendment rules must be consistent with practical realities, *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 688 (Kennedy, J., dissenting), and the reality is that police may operate within the confines of the Fifth Amendment in order to extract as many confessions as possible, see Leo & White, Adapting to *Miranda*: Modern Interrogators Strategies for Dealing with the Obstacles Posed by *Miranda*, 84 Minn. L. Rev. 397 (1999). With a time limit as short as 14 days, police who hope that they can eventually extract a confession may feel comfortable releasing a suspect for a short period of time. The resulting delay will only increase the compelling pressures on the suspect.

[Footnote 11](#)

It is important to distinguish this from the point that I make above about indigent suspects. If the police promise to provide a lawyer and never do so, it sends a message to the suspect that the police have lied and that the rights read to him

are hollow. But the mere fact that a suspect consulted a lawyer does not itself reduce the compulsion when police reinterrogate him.

[Footnote 12](#)

Cf. *Orozco v. Texas* , [394 U. S. 324](#) , 326 (1969) (holding that a suspect was in custody while being held in own home, despite his comfort and familiarity with the surroundings); *Mathis v. United States* , [391 U. S. 1](#) , 5 (1968) (holding that a person serving a prison sentence for one crime was in custody when he was interrogated in prison about another, unrelated crime); *Miranda v. Arizona* , [384 U. S. 436](#) , 478 (1966) ([W]hen an individual is deprived of his freedom by the authorities in any significant way and is subjected to questioning, the privilege against self-incrimination is jeopardized).

[Footnote 13](#)

Prison also presents a troubling set of incentives for police. First, because investigators know that their suspect is also a prisoner, there is no need formally to place him under arrest. Thus, police generally can interview prisoners even without probable cause to hold them. This means that police can interrogate suspects with little or no evidence of guilt, and police can do so time after time, without fear of being sued for wrongful arrest. Second, because police know that their suspect is otherwise detained, there is no need necessarily to resolve the case quickly. Police can comfortably bide their time, interrogating and reinterrogating their suspect until he slips up. Third, because police need not hold their suspect, they do not need to arraign him or otherwise initiate formal legal proceedings that would trigger various protections.

[Footnote 14](#)

The Court attempts to distinguish detention in prison from the paradigm *Edwards* case, *ante* , at 7, but it is not clear why that is so. The difference cannot be simply that convicted prisoners detention is relatively disconnected from their prior unwillingness to cooperate in an investigation, *ante* , at 14, because in many instances of pretrial custody, the custody will continue regardless of whether a detainee answers questions. Take *Roberson* for example. Roberson was arrested and being held for one crime when, days later, a different officer

interrogated him about a different crime. 486 U. S., at 678. Regardless of whether he cooperated with the second investigation, he was still being held for the first crime. Yet under the Courts analysis, had Roberson been held long enough that he had become accustomed to the detention facility, *ante* , at 14, there would have been a break in custody between each interrogation. Thus, despite the fact that coercive pressures may increase as custody is prolonged, *Minnick* , 498 U. S., at 153, the real problem in *Roberson* may have been that the police did not leave him sitting in jail for long enough.

This problem of pretrial custody also highlights a tension with the Courts decision last Term in *Montejo v. Louisiana* , 556 U. S. ____ (2009). In *Montejo* , the Court overturned *Michigan v. Jackson* , [475 U. S. 625](#) , 636 (1986), which had protected an accuseds Sixth Amendment right to counsel by forbidding police to initiate interrogation of a criminal defendant once he has requested counsel at an arraignment or similar proceeding. 556 U. S., at ____ (slip op., at 1). In so doing, the Court emphasized that because the *Edwards* regime suffices to protect the integrity of a suspects voluntary choice not to speak outside his lawyers presence, before his arraignment, it is hard to see why it would not also suffice to protect that same choice after arraignment. 556 U. S., at ____ (slip op., at 15) (quoting *Texas v. Cobb* , [532 U. S. 162](#) , 175 (2001) (Kennedy, J., concurring); citation omitted). But typically, after arraignment, defendants are released on bail or placed in detention facilities, both of which, according to the majoritys logic, sometimes constitute breaks in custody. How then, under the Courts decision today, will *Edwards* serve the role that the Court placed on it in *Montejo*?

[Footnote 15](#)

The Court responds that [i]f confidence in the polices promise to provide counsel were the touchstone, *Edwards* would not have applied in *Minnick* , where the suspect in continuing custody actually met with appointed counsel. *Ante* , at 17-18. But my view is not that confidence in the polices promise to provide counsel is the touchstone. *Ante* , at 17. Rather, my view is that although an appropriate break in custody will mitigate many of the reasons that custodial reinterrogation of a suspect who requested counsel is inherently compelling, it will not mitigate the

effect of an indigent detainee believing that he has been denied the counsel he has clearly requested, *Roberson* , 486 U. S., at 686. If police tell an indigent suspect that he is not required to speak without an attorney, and that they will provide him with an attorney, and that suspect asserts his right to an attorney, but police nonetheless do not provide an attorney and reinterrogate him (even if there was a break in custody between the interrogations), the indigent suspect is likely to feel that the police lied to him or are ignoring his rights. This view is not in tension with *Minnick* . *Minnick* holds only that consultation with an attorney between interrogations is not *sufficient* to end the *Edwards* presumption and therefore that when there has been no break in custody, counsels *presence* at interrogation , 498 U. S., at 152, is necessary to address the compulsion with which the *Edwards* line of cases is concerned.

[Footnote 16](#)

I do not doubt that some of the compulsion caused by reinterrogating an indigent suspect without providing a lawyer may survive even a break in custody and a very long passage of time. The relevant point here is more limited: A long break in time, far longer than 14 days, diminishes, rather than eliminates, that compulsion.