

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

JOEL CARDENAS,
Appellant,
vs.
THE STATE OF NEVADA,
Respondent.

No. 61795

FILED

JUL 23 2013

TRACIE K. LINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY R. Malone
DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER OF REVERSAL AND REMAND

This is a proper person appeal from an order of the district court denying a post-conviction petition for a writ of habeas corpus. Fifth Judicial District Court, Nye County; Robert W. Lane, Judge.

Appellant filed a timely petition on May 30, 2012. The district court denied the petition without conducting an evidentiary hearing or appointing counsel. We conclude that the district court erred in denying the petition without appointing counsel for the reasons discussed below.

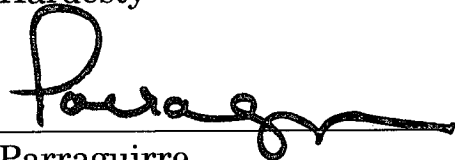
NRS 34.750(1) provides for the discretionary appointment of post-conviction counsel and sets forth the following factors which the court may consider in making its determination to appoint counsel: the petitioner's indigency, the severity of the consequences to the petitioner, the difficulty of those issues presented, whether the petitioner is unable to comprehend the proceedings, and whether counsel is necessary to proceed with discovery. The determination of whether counsel should be appointed is not necessarily dependent upon whether a petitioner raises issues in a petition which, if true, would entitle the petitioner to relief.

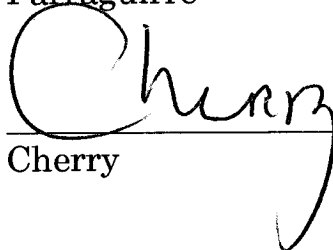
Appellant's petition arose out of a trial with potentially complex issues. Appellant was represented by appointed counsel at trial.

Appellant is serving a significant sentence. In addition, appellant moved for the appointment of counsel and claimed that he was indigent. The failure to appoint post-conviction counsel prevented a meaningful litigation of the petition. Thus, we reverse the district court's denial of appellant's petition and remand this matter for the appointment of counsel to assist appellant in the post-conviction proceedings. Accordingly, we

ORDER the judgment of the district court REVERSED AND REMAND this matter to the district court for proceedings consistent with this order.


_____, J.
Hardesty


_____, J.
Parraguirre


_____, J.
Cherry

cc: Hon. Robert W. Lane, District Judge
Joel Cardenas
Nye County District Attorney
Attorney General/Carson City
Nye County Clerk