

R. v. Wedzin, 2003 NWTSC 42

S-1-CR2003000031

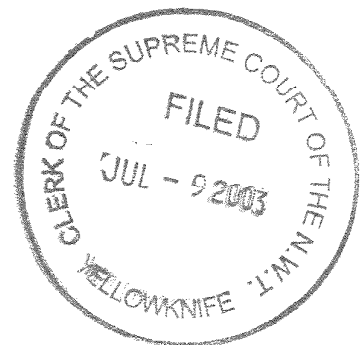
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

IN THE MATTER OF:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- vs. -

NORMAN WEDZIN



Transcript of the Reasons for Sentence by The Honourable Justice J.E. Richard, at Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, on June 19th A.D., 2003.

APPEARANCES:

Ms. C. Carrasco:	Counsel for the Crown
Mr. J. Brydon:	Counsel for the Accused

Charge under s. 139(1) *Criminal Code of Canada*

1 THE COURT: This offender, Norman Wedzin,
2 pleads guilty to a charge of attempting to obstruct
3 justice. This of course is a very serious offence. At
4 the core of the crime is the willful attempt or
5 intention to obstruct the course of justice and this
6 crime, therefore, strikes at the very heart or the
7 very vitality of the justice system. Anyone who is
8 considering interfering with the justice system by
9 threatening or persuading a witness not to testify in
10 court or to give false evidence in court must know or
11 must get the message that serious consequences will
12 flow from such interference with the justice system.

13 Here, this offender assaulted a 14-year-old boy,
14 I am told, and then after he was charged with the
15 assault, he threatened the boy that if the boy
16 testified against him in court on that assault charge
17 that he would assault him again. As it turns out, I am
18 told that Mr. Wedzin pleaded guilty to the assault
19 charge and was sentenced to five months imprisonment.
20 This was back in March of this year. It is regrettable
21 that this obstruct justice charge was not dealt with
22 at the same time as the other charges in March. In any
23 event, we are here today.

24 In my view, it is an aggravating circumstance
25 that this offence was committed with respect to a
26 young, vulnerable 14-year-old boy. It is also
27 aggravating that in this case, as opposed to some of

1 the cases that come before the Court for obstruct
2 justice, in this case there was indeed a threat of
3 violence.

4 Now, Mr. Wedzin, I hear you say this morning,
5 among other things, that you appreciate that people
6 are trying to help you. I hope that you keep that in
7 mind while you are finishing your sentence and after
8 you get released. In particular, let me make sure that
9 you are clear what has happened here today.

10 You are very fortunate that the Crown prosecutor
11 here is not asking for 12 months jail. That is a
12 pretty normal sentence for someone like you, who has
13 got this kind of record, and who has committed this
14 offence. Now, the prosecutor, and the Court, are
15 properly giving you credit because you are pleading
16 guilty. That's a valid consideration to reduce your
17 sentence. But keep in mind you have got quite a
18 discount here, and people are trying to help you. You
19 are going to turn 25 next month; it is time for you to
20 do more to help yourself and get on with leading a
21 sober and peaceful life so that your parents can be
22 proud of you.

23 Please stand then, Mr. Wedzin.

24 Norman Wedzin, for the crime that you have
25 committed contrary to Section 139(2) of the *Criminal*
26 *Code*, obstruct justice, it is the sentence of this
27 Court that you be imprisoned for a period of three

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months.

You may sit.

Is there any other matters? Have a seat,
Mr. Wedzin.

MR. BRYDON: I'd ask that the Victims of Crime
surcharge be waived in the circumstances.

THE COURT: There will be no Victim Fine
surcharge in the circumstances. There is no other
order sought here?

MS. CARRASCO: And the sentence is consecutive?

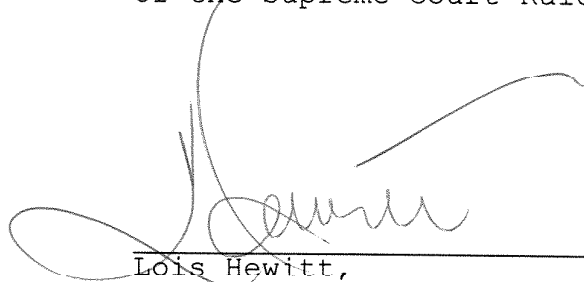
THE COURT: Consecutive to time serving, yes.

Thank you.

Good luck to you, Mr. Wedzin.

(AT WHICH TIME THE ORAL REASONS FOR SENTENCE CONCLUDED)

Certified to be a true and accurate
transcript pursuant to Rules 723 and 724
of the Supreme Court Rules.



Lois Hewitt,
Court Reporter