

NO. 000

STATE OF TEXAS) IN THE DISTRICT COURT
VS.) 51ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JOE SMITH) SCHLEICHER COUNTY, TEXAS

DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO SET ASIDE THE INDICTMENT

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Joe Smith moves that the indictment filed in this case be set aside by virtue of the Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, Article I §§ 10 and 19 of the Texas Constitution, and Articles 1.05, 21.01, 21.02, 21.03, 21.04, and 21.11 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure for the following reasons:

I.

The Defects In The Indictment

1. The indictment is defective because it alleges that Mr. Smith did “purport to marry T. Jones . . .” and refers to a “purported marriage,” without defining the terms “purport” and “purported.” These are vague and conclusory terms, undefined by Texas statute, and subject to a variety of interpretations. Absent more precision on its face with regard to these words, this indictment does not "charge[] the commission of the offense in ordinary and concise language in such a manner as to enable a person of common understanding to know what is meant and with what degree of certainty that will give the defendant notice of the particular offense with which he is charged, and enable the court, on conviction, to pronounce the proper judgment . . ." in violation of TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 21.11 and the Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and article I, §§ 10 and 19 of the Texas Constitution. Nor does it set forth the offense “in plain and intelligible words”, in violation of TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 21.02(7). And, it does not possess "[t]he certainty . . . such as will enable the accused to plead the judgment that may be given upon it in bar of any prosecution for the same offense," in violation of TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 21.04 and the Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I §§ 10 and 19 of the Texas Constitution.

2. The indictment is defective because it does not allege the manner and means by which Mr. Smith allegedly purported to marry T. Jones. *See Miller v. State*, 647 S.W. 2d 266, 267 (Tex. Crim. App. 1983)(indictment for criminal mischief must allege the manner and means by which defendant damaged and destroyed the property); *see also Castillo v. State*, 689 S.W. 2d 443, 449 (Tex. Crim. App. 1984)(indictment for arson must allege manner and means in which defendant started the fire); *Smith v. State*, 658 S.W. 2d 172, 173 (Tex. Crim. App. 1983)(indictment for gambling promotion must state manner and means by which defendant received bets and offers to bet); *Cruise v. State*, 587 S.W. 2d 403, 405 (Tex. Crim. App. 1979)(indictment for aggravated robbery must allege manner and means whereby defendant allegedly caused bodily injury); *Haecker v. State*, 571 S.W. 2d 920, 922 (Tex. Crim. App. 1978)(information for animal cruelty must allege manner and means by which defendant tortured the animal).
3. The indictment is defective because it does not adequately identify the alleged complainant in this case.
4. The indictment is defective because it refers vaguely to "circumstances that would, but for the defendant's prior marriage, constitute a marriage." What "circumstances" does the state mean? The indictment does not state "[e]verything . . . which is necessary to be proved", in violation of TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 21.03. The offense is not "set forth in plain and intelligible words", in violation of TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. - 21.02(7). The indictment does not possess "[t]he certainty . . . such as will enable the accused to plead the judgment that may be given upon it in bar of any prosecution for the same offense," in violation of TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 21.04 and the Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I §§ 10 and 19 of the Texas Constitution. The indictment does not "charge[] the commission of the offense in ordinary and concise language in such a manner as to enable a person of common understanding to know what is meant and with what degree of certainty that will give the defendant notice of the particular offense with which he is charged, and enable the court, on conviction, to pronounce the proper judgment . . ." in violation of TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 21.11 and the Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and article I, §§ 10 and 19 of the Texas Constitution.

II. PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the defendant prays that the Court set aside the information in the above-numbered and entitled cause.

Respectfully submitted:

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of defendant's Motion To Set Aside The Indictment has been mailed to Office of the Attorney General, P.O. Box 12548, Austin, Texas 78711-2548 on this the 24th day of November, 2018.

MARK STEVENS

ORDER

On this the _____ day of _____, 2018, came on to be considered Defendant's Motion to Set Aside the Information, and said Motion is hereby
(GRANTED) (DENIED).

JUDGE PRESIDING