



(Docket No. 131360)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, Appellee, v.  
ROGER W. CARROLL JR., Appellant.  
*Opinion filed May 21, 2026.*

Justice Cunningham delivered the judgment of the court, with opinion.

This case concerns whether a criminal defendant's postconviction claims were forfeited, meaning the defendant had an earlier opportunity to raise those claims and had given them up by failing to do so. Roger Carroll Jr. was convicted of murder for the disappearance of Bonnie Woodward. His postconviction petition alleged various claims including ineffective assistance at trial on the suppression of his statements to police, ineffective assistance at trial on radiocarbon dating, and unreasonable performance by postconviction counsel. The circuit court dismissed his petition, and the appellate court affirmed, finding the claims forfeited.

The supreme court found the claims were not forfeited but that they were of no help to Carroll anyway. The appellate court had concluded that some of Carroll's claims about his appellate counsel were known to him at the time and thus could have been raised. The supreme court noted that the standard for forfeiture is whether the facts establishing the claim appeared in the record, and in Carroll's case, they did not. However, Carroll's claims regarding his trial attorney's performance were unavailing, as he could not show prejudice from any of them. Likewise, his claims regarding his postconviction counsel failed to show she did not render reasonable assistance.