

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN COURT OF APPEALS
A24-1575



Pariss Demond Wright, petitioner,

Appellant,

vs.

State of Minnesota,

Respondent.

ORDER OPINION

St. Louis County District Court
File No. 69DU-CR-21-3685

Considered and decided by Bratvold, Presiding Judge; Ross, Judge; and Smith, Tracy M., Judge.

BASED ON THE FILE, RECORD, AND PROCEEDINGS, AND BECAUSE:

1. A district court found Pariss Wright guilty of third-degree criminal sexual conduct and sentenced him to 117 months in prison, and Wright directly appealed his conviction to this court. *State v. Wright*, No. A22-1109, 2023 WL 4167408, at *1–2 (Minn. App. June 26, 2023), *rev. denied* (Minn. Sept. 27, 2023). In a supplemental brief he argued that the district court improperly weighed the evidence and that the evidence did not support his conviction. *Id.* at *5. He made additional assertions without supporting argument or authority. *Id.* We affirmed Wright’s conviction. *Id.*

2. Wright petitioned for postconviction relief, asserting that certain trial testimony was inconsistent, not credible, and insufficient to support his conviction; that DNA evidence might have been fabricated; that certain evidence had not been properly

disclosed to him; and that his prior convictions should not have been admitted for impeachment. He also cited alleged trial-procedure errors and referenced his other criminal files. And his postconviction filing included civil claims against a city and the nurse who examined the victim. He included motions, citing rules of criminal and civil procedure.

3. The postconviction court denied Wright’s petition without an evidentiary hearing, reasoning that many of Wright’s claims exceeded the scope of a postconviction petition and holding that Wright’s arguments were procedurally barred because they repeated those we considered and rejected in his direct appeal. Wright appeals.

4. A postconviction court may deny a petition without first holding an evidentiary hearing only if the record reflects conclusively that the petitioner is not entitled to relief. Minn. Stat. § 590.04, subd. 1 (2022). We review the denial of a petition for an abuse of discretion. *Pearson v. State*, 891 N.W.2d 590, 596 (Minn. 2017). We see no abuse here.

5. On a petition for postconviction relief after a direct appeal, “all matters raised therein, and all claims known but not raised, will not be considered.” *State v. Knaffla*, 243 N.W.2d 737, 741 (Minn. 1976); *see* Minn. Stat. § 590.01, subd. 1 (2022). There are exceptions to the *Knaffla* bar, *see Buckingham v. State*, 799 N.W.2d 229, 231 (Minn. 2011), but the only one relevant here is Wright’s assertion of the interests of justice.

6. The general thrust of Wright’s arguments, as we have struggled to understand them, challenge the district court’s credibility assessments and its weighing of the trial evidence—issues we decided in his direct appeal. *Wright*, 2023 WL 4167408, at *5. Wright suggests that the justice-interests exception to the *Knaffla* rule applies to some of his attacks

on witness credibility, but the exception does not apply if the petitioner “deliberately and inexcusably” failed to raise the issue in a direct appeal. *White v. State*, 711 N.W.2d 106, 109 (Minn. 2006). Wright implies that his appellate counsel discouraged him from raising certain claims, but his submitted correspondence with his lawyer implies that he was aware of those claims during his direct appeal. The postconviction court properly concluded that those witness-credibility and evidentiary-disclosure arguments are *Knaffla* barred.

7. The district court also did not err in determining that several of Wright’s claims, including his requests for relief in other cases, his civil claims, and his request for pretrial evidence disclosure, fall outside the scope of the postconviction-relief statute.

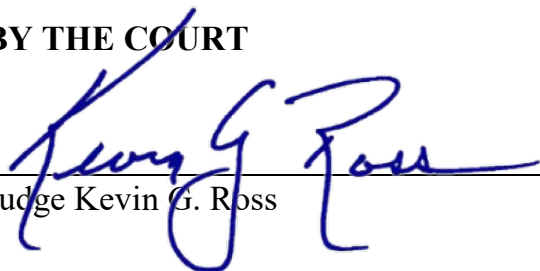
8. Wright’s remaining claims include no discernible compelling argument supporting a *Knaffla* exception. We decline to address issues raised on a postconviction-relief appeal when an appellant fails to identify particular reasons why he did not bring those claims on direct appeal. *See Zornes v. State*, 880 N.W.2d 363, 369 (Minn. 2016); *Erickson v. State*, 725 N.W.2d 532, 535 (Minn. 2007). The district court did not abuse its discretion by determining that Wright’s claims were procedurally barred.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The postconviction court’s order is affirmed.
2. Pursuant to Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 136.01, subd. 1(c), this order opinion is nonprecedential, except as law of the case, *res judicata*, or collateral estoppel.

Dated: May 14, 2025

BY THE COURT



Judge Kevin G. Ross