FILED
MAR 16 1989
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

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STATE OF IOWA,)
Plaintiff-Appellee,)
vs.)
GARY LEE CHRISTINSON,) 8-537 / 87-1189
Defendant-Appellant.)

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Poweshiek County (CR 47-040287), James P. Rielly and James D. Jenkins, Judges.

Defendant appeals his conviction by a jury of second-degree theft. **AFFIRMED.**

William L. Wegman, State Public Defender, and Linda Del Gallo, Assistant Public Defender, for defendant-appellant.

Thomas J. Miller, Attorney General; Sheryl A. Soich, Assistant Attorney General; and Michael R. Stewart, Assistant County Attorney, for plaintiff-appellee.

Considered by Oxberger, C.J., and Donielson and Schlegel, JJ.

OXBERGER, C.J.

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Defendant Gary Lee Christinson was convicted of second degree theft in violation of Iowa Code sections 714.1(4) and 714.2(2) (1987). On appeal defendant contends he received ineffective assistance of counsel due to trial counsel's failure to (1) make a pretrial motion in limine to exclude evidence regarding defendant's probation revocation and previous time spent in the Eldora state training school or failure to make timely mistrial motions or objections when such evidence was presented, and (2) make a motion in limine to exclude evidence regarding defendant's prior felony conviction or properly object when the State sought to impeach the defendant with the convictions.

We review claims of ineffective assistance of counsel de novo. State v. Hildebrandt, 405 N.W.2d 839, 841 (Iowa 1987). The burden is on the defendant to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that trial counsel failed to perform an essential duty and this failure to perform this duty prejudiced the defendant. Id.

Resolutions of claims of ineffective assistance of counsel are generally reserved for postconviction review by appellate courts because of the seriousness of the claim to counsel whose performance is being challenged as well as the fairness of the trial. Kellogg v. State, 288 N.W.2d 561, 563 (Iowa 1980).

In this appeal the State contends trial counsel's failure to make the motions in limine or timely object to the evidence regarding defendant's past criminal record was a strategic or tactical decision. Reasonable tactical decisions are not grounds for ineffective assistance of counsel claims. Fryer v. State, 325 N.W.2d 400, 413 (Iowa 1982)(emphasis supplied.) The record before this court is insufficient to determine whether the failure to make said motions and objections were tactical decisions or decisions never contemplated by trial counsel. Because of the inadequate record, we do not address defendant's claims of ineffective assistance of counsel.

AFFIRMED.