

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
FIFTH DISTRICT

JANUARY TERM 2009

JOHN E. FOLDEN,

Appellant,

v.

Case No. 5D08-2967

STATE OF FLORIDA,

CORRECTED OPINION

Appellee.

Opinion filed May 22, 2009

Appeal from the Circuit Court
for Osceola County,
Scott Polodna, Judge.

James S. Purdy, Public Defender,
and Edward J. Weiss, Assistant
Public Defender, Daytona Beach,
for Appellant.

Bill McCollum, Attorney General,
Tallahassee, and Pamela J. Koller,
Assistant Attorney General,
Daytona Beach, for Appellee.

ORFINGER, J.

John E. Folden appeals his conviction of refusing to submit to a breath test.¹

Folden contends that the State failed to prove that his driving privilege had previously been suspended for refusing to submit to a breath test as required by section 316.1939, Florida Statutes (2008). The State properly concedes error and we reverse.

¹ Folden was acquitted of felony driving under the influence.

Refusal to submit to a breath test is a misdemeanor if the defendant's driving privilege had previously been suspended for refusing to submit to a lawful test of the defendant's breath, urine or blood. See § 316.1939, Fla. Stat. (2008). To prove the defendant's prior license suspension for refusing to submit to a breath test, the State submitted Folden's certified driving record (CDR), and suggested that the notation found on the CDR of "BAL unknown" meant that Folden had previously refused to submit to a breath test. No other evidence of a prior refusal was offered. The State concedes that the "BAL unknown" on the CDR does not establish beyond a reasonable doubt that Folden previously refused to submit to a breath test.²

Accordingly, we reverse Folden's conviction. However, as Folden acknowledges, the evidence adequately demonstrates that he was advised of his obligation to submit to a breath test and refused. As such, on remand, the trial court shall forward a copy of this opinion to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to suspend Folden's license if it deems appropriate. See §§ 322.2615, 316.1932(1)(a), Fla. Stat. (2008).

REVERSED AND REMANDED.

EVANDER and COHEN, JJ., concur.

² We commend the State for its candor.