

Circuit Court for Talbot County
Case No. C-20-CR-18-000185

UNREPORTED
IN THE APPELLATE COURT
OF MARYLAND

No. 667

September Term, 2024

DIONYSUS RODNELL BUTLER, JR.

v.

STATE OF MARYLAND

Leahy,
Zic,
Harrell, Glenn T., Jr.
(Senior Judge, Specially Assigned),

JJ.

PER CURIAM

Filed: March 10, 2025

*This is a per curiam opinion. Under Rule 1-104, the opinion is not precedent within the rule of stare decisis, nor may it be cited as persuasive authority.

Dionysus Rodnell Butler, Jr., appellant, appeals from the denial, by the Circuit Court for Talbot County, of a motion to correct illegal sentence. For the reasons that follow, we shall affirm the judgment of the circuit court.

In August 2018, Mr. Butler was charged with numerous offenses relating to the armed robbery and fatal shooting of Jorian Edwards. At trial, the first count submitted to the jury for their consideration was first degree premeditated murder, and the second count was first degree felony murder. The jury subsequently announced that they had acquitted Mr. Butler of first degree premeditated murder, but convicted him of first degree felony murder. The jury’s verdict sheet reflects the same verdicts. At sentencing, the court sentenced Mr. Butler for the offense as follows: “In the interest of justice and the protection of the public under count one, which is first degree murder, I sentence you to the jurisdiction of the Division of Corrections for a term of your natural life.”

In April 2024, Mr. Butler filed the motion to correct illegal sentence, in which he contended that because “the jury unanimously found [him] ‘Not Guilty’ of Count One, first degree murder,” his “sentence of ‘natural life’” is illegal. (Emphasis omitted.) The court denied the motion.

Mr. Butler contends that, for numerous reasons, the court erred in denying the motion. We disagree. It is clear from the record that in sentencing Mr. Butler for first degree murder, the sentencing court simply misspoke with respect to the number of the count submitted to the jury. Also, Mr. Butler does not dispute that the jury convicted him

of first degree felony murder, or that the sentence imposed by the court for that offense is legal. Hence, the court did not err in denying the motion to correct illegal sentence.

**JUDGMENT OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR TALBOT COUNTY AFFIRMED.
COSTS TO BE PAID BY APPELLANT.**