

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

IN THE SUPREME COURT

Cri/bal/00410/2019

(Criminal Division)

Between

MICHAEL BECKFORD

Applicant

Vs.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Respondent

Before: The Hon. Madam Justice Renae McKay

Appearances: Geoffrey Farquharson for the Applicant

Joel Seymour for the Respondent

Hearing Date: 24th October 2019

DECISION

1. On the 24th October 2019 I denied application for bail of the Applicant and promised to provide my reasons in writing. I do so now.

2. The Applicant filed a Summons on the 8th October 2019 seeking a variation of his bail granted herein on the 17th September 2019 which was in the following terms:

“The Applicant is granted bail is granted in the sum of \$12,000.00 subject to the condition that he be fitted with an Electric Monitoring Device and further that he report to the Carmichael Road Police Station before 6pm every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday”.

3. In support of his application Mr. Farquharson his Counsel argued that his family had little resources and as such the variation was sought.

4. His Affidavit in support in the following terms.

2. I am the Applicant herein.
3. Thus Affidavit is supplemental to mine originally sworn herein.
4. On the 17th of September, 2019 I was admitted to bail by this Honourable Court in the sum of \$12,000.00.
5. Due to the practice currently in place in Registry of the Honourable Court, bail in the amount, and on any amount greater than \$10,000.00, must be secured by a conveyance.
6. I am from a ordinary Bahamian family of limited financial means who are not land holders.
7. And so despite my very diligent efforts and my patience, I have been unable to secure a surety who has the requisite security documents.
8. As a result, although admitted to bail more than a month ago, I remain remanded.
9. Accordingly I make this Affidavit to support an application for a variation of my Bail in the sum of \$7,500.00 on the ground that the current sum amounts to a denial of bail to a person of my limited financial resources."

5. The Prosecution objected to the application on the basis of the antecedents of the Applicant.

6. At the hearing of September 19th 2019 I took into consideration the antecedents of the Applicant. I was at that time aware of the fact that in May of 2017 he was convicted of the offence of Possession of Unlicensed Firearm and sentenced to 2 years at the Department of Correction and on the same date convicted of the offence of Possession of Ammunition and fined \$1,000.00 or alternatively six months at The Department of Corrections, At that time I exercised my discretion and despite his recent convictions for similar serious offences and admitted him to bail in the terms which because of the antecedents I deemed very reasonable.

7. Having given the matter the consideration as aforementioned I see no reason for me to vary the terms of the Order of September 19th 2019. And as such I deny the application for same.

The Hon. Madam Justice Renae McKay


Dated this 28th October A.D. 2019