

Dismissed and Opinion filed November 9, 2000.



In The

Fourteenth Court of Appeals

NO. 14-00-01178-CR

CLIFTON PRATZ, Appellant

V.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, Appellee

**On Appeal from the 253rd District Court
Chambers County, Texas
Trial Court Cause No. 11324**

O P I N I O N

After a jury trial, appellant was convicted of the offense of engaging in organized criminal activity and sentenced to a fine of \$10,000 and ten years' confinement in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on August 17, 2000. No motion for new trial was filed. Appellant's notice of appeal was not filed until September 20, 2000.

A defendant's notice of appeal must be filed within thirty days after sentence is imposed when the defendant has not filed a motion for new trial. *See* TEX. R. APP. P. 26.2(a)(1). A notice of appeal which complies with the requirements of Rule 26 is essential to vest the court of appeals with jurisdiction. *See Slaton v. State*, 981 S.W.2d 208, 210 (Tex. Crim. App. 1998). If an appeal is not timely perfected,

a court of appeals does not obtain jurisdiction to address the merits of the appeal. Under those circumstances it can take no action other than to dismiss the appeal. *See id.*

Accordingly, the appeal is ordered dismissed.

PER CURIAM

Judgment rendered and Opinion filed November 9, 2000.

Panel consists of Justices Anderson, Fowler, and Edelman.

Do Not Publish - TEX. R. APP. P. 47.3(b).