

Dismissed and Opinion filed September 6, 2001.



In The

Fourteenth Court of Appeals

NO. 14-01-00575-CR

CORNELIUS R. FIELDS, Appellant

V.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, Appellee

**On Appeal from the 351st District Court
Harris County, Texas
Trial Court Cause No. 851,132**

MEMORANDUM OPINION

After a guilty plea, appellant was convicted of the offense of theft and sentenced to 10 years confinement in the Institutional Division of Texas Department of Criminal Justice on September 26, 2000. Appellant's notice of appeal was not filed until December 29, 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 September 6, 2001.

Panel consists of Justices Anderson, Hudson, and Frost.

Do Not Publish - TEX.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