

RENDERED: MARCH 12, 2004; 2:00 p.m.
NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

Commonwealth Of Kentucky

Court Of Appeals

NO. 2003-CA-000219-MR

JAMES M. CORDER

APPELLANT

v.

APPEAL FROM HARDIN CIRCUIT COURT
HONORABLE JANET P. COLEMAN, JUDGE
ACTION NO. 01-CR-00189

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

APPELLEE

OPINION
AFFIRMING

** ** * * * * *

BEFORE: COMBS, KNOPF, AND McANULTY, JUDGES.

KNOPF, JUDGE: In October 2002, James Corder pled guilty but mentally ill to three counts of first-degree robbery in violation of KRS 515.020. The Hardin Circuit Court accepted Corder's plea, and by judgment entered January 17, 2003, sentenced him to concurrent terms of imprisonment totaling sixteen years. Notwithstanding Corder's plea, appointed trial counsel filed on his behalf a notice of appeal. Appellate

counsel was duly appointed and, having reviewed the record, moved to withdraw from the case and filed a brief pursuant to Anders v. California,¹ giving his opinion that the appeal is groundless.

We have reviewed the record and concur with counsel's estimate. There is evidence that Corder was traumatized some years prior to his offenses when he witnessed the gruesome accidental death of a co-worker. Twice following the offenses, however, he was evaluated by psychiatric experts, who deemed him competent to stand trial. An expert so testifying provided the only evidence at Corder's competency hearing. Soon after he was found to be competent, Corder moved to plead guilty. The record of the plea proceeding suggests no reason to doubt that Corder entered his plea knowingly, competently, and understandingly. Accordingly, we affirm the January 17, 2003, judgment of the Hardin Circuit Court.

ALL CONCUR.

BRIEF FOR APPELLANT:

Irvin J. Halbleib
Appellate Public Advocate
Louisville, Kentucky

BRIEF FOR APPELLEE:

Albert B. Chandler III
Attorney General of Kentucky

Todd D. Ferguson
Assistant Attorney General
Frankfort, Kentucky

¹ 386 U.S. 738, 18 L. Ed. 2d 493, 87 S. Ct. 1396 (1967).