

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 92-5274

MELTON J. LORD,

Petitioner-Appellant,

VERSUS

JAMES A. COLLINS, Director,
Texas Department of Criminal Justice,
Institutional Division

Respondent-Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Texas
(89-CV-155)

(November 5, 1993)

Before GARWOOD and BARKSDALE, Circuit Judges, and SHAW*, District Judge.

PER CURIAM:**

Having read the briefs, heard oral argument, and reviewed the record, we conclude that the district court was correct in denying habeas relief. As held by that court, even assuming that admission of the paraffin (dermal nitrate) test constituted error, it did not render Lord's trial fundamentally unfair. The deficiencies in the

* Chief Judge of the Western District of Louisiana, sitting by designation.

** Local Rule 47.5.1 provides: "The publication of opinions that have no precedential value and merely decide particular cases on the basis of well-settled principles of law imposes needless expense on the public and burdens on the legal profession." Pursuant to that rule, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published.

test were fully brought before the jury; and there was far more than sufficient evidence otherwise to convict, so that "any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt." *Jackson v. Virginia*, 443 U.S. 307, 319 (1979) (emphasis in original). Accordingly, the denial of the habeas application is

AFFIRMED.