

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

No. 26-30161
Summary Calendar

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

October 5, 2026

Thomas B. Plunkett, III
Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff—Appellee,

versus

KORDARRIEN BRAZIEL,

Defendant—Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Western District of Louisiana
USDC No. 5:25-CR-5-2

Before WILLETT, DUNCAN, and ENGELHARDT, *Circuit Judges*.

PER CURIAM:*

Kordarrien Braziel was convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349. The presentence report recommended a Guidelines range of 10–16 months. The range reflected, in part, a sophisticated-means enhancement. Braziel objected and argued that without the enhancement, the proper Guidelines range was 6–12 months. The district

* This opinion is not designated for publication. *See* 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.

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court overruled the objection and sentenced him to 12 months and one day. In its statement of reasons for the sentence, the district court stated that, if its “guideline determination(s) . . . are found to be incorrect, the court would impose a sentence identical to that imposed in this case.”

On appeal, Braziel renews his challenge to the sophisticated-means enhancement. But we need not decide whether the enhancement applied. Any error was harmless. We have held that harmlessness applies where, as here, “the district court considered both ranges . . . and explained that it would give the same sentence either way.” *United States v. Guzman-Rendon*, 864 F.3d 409, 411 (5th Cir. 2017); *see also, e.g., United States v. Hyde*, 849 F. App’x 123, 125 (5th Cir. 2021) (per curiam). Braziel identified the lower 6–12 month range for the district court, and the court expressly stated it would impose the same sentence even if its Guidelines calculation were wrong. Accordingly, we AFFIRM the district court’s judgment.