

Dismissed and Opinion filed December 7, 2000.



In The

Fourteenth Court of Appeals

NO. 14-00-01503-CR

LOUIS RAY MARTIN, JR., Appellant

V.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, Appellee

On Appeal from the 240th District Court
Fort Bend County, Texas
Trial Court Cause No. 31,213B

OPINION

After a guilty plea , appellant was convicted of the offense of murder and sentenced to forty years on September 7, 2000. No motion for new trial was filed. Appellant's notice of appeal was not filed until November 27, 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 on December 7, 2000.

Panel consists of Justices Yates, Wittig, and Frost.

Do Not Publish — *See* TEX. R. APP. P. 47.3(b).