

People v. Hall – Document-Style Case Brief Example

Court: Colorado Supreme Court

Year: 2004

Procedural History: At a preliminary hearing, the trial court dismissed the case for lack of probable cause. The prosecution appealed. The appellate court opinion reversed the dismissal, holding that probable cause existed. The case was remanded for further proceedings.

Facts: The defendant, a former ski racer trained in ski safety, skied at a high rate of speed down a steep and crowded slope. He lost control, flew off a mogul, and struck another skier, causing death.

Issue: How should Colorado law define recklessness, and was there probable cause to believe the defendant acted recklessly under that definition?

Rule: Recklessness requires conscious disregard of a substantial and unjustifiable risk that results in death. The risk must represent a gross deviation from reasonable conduct.

Holding: The court held that probable cause existed. The defendant's conduct demonstrated sufficient awareness and disregard of the risk to support a reckless manslaughter charge.

Reasoning: The court relied on statutory definitions and compared recklessness with criminal negligence. It emphasized the defendant's training, speed, and awareness of conditions, concluding that a reasonable person could infer conscious risk-taking.

Disposition: Reversed and remanded.