

State v. Smith – IRAC Case Brief Example

Issue

Did the defendant act recklessly when driving at an excessive speed through a residential area, causing a fatal car accident?

Rule

Recklessness requires conscious disregard of a substantial and unjustifiable risk. The conduct must represent a gross deviation from the standard of care a reasonable person would observe in the same situation.

Application

The defendant drove well above the speed limit on a residential street with limited visibility. Evidence showed the defendant knew pedestrians were likely present and ignored warnings about road conditions. This conduct demonstrated awareness of risk and deliberate disregard for safety.

Conclusion

The court found sufficient evidence of recklessness and decided in favor of the prosecution, allowing the criminal charge to proceed.