



# Verdicts

Real Court Cases  
to Argue and Resolve

Case Summaries

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### 1 ❁ **Parental Immunity** *(Pages 12-13)*

A mother and her small son were playing in the swimming pool in the back yard. The phone rang inside the house, and the mother went to answer, talking for a while. When she came back, she discovered her son unconscious in the pool, and he suffered permanent brain damage.

### 2 ❁ **Four Smokers, One Room** *(Pages 14-15)*

Four guests were in a hotel room. They were chatting, drinking, and smoking. After they left to go to a restaurant, a fire caused by a smoldering cigarette started in their room.

### 3 ❁ **The Unhappy Patient** *(Pages 16-17)*

A man went into the hospital for a routine appendectomy, but during the operation his arm was severely injured. Two doctors, two nurses, and a couple of other medical people had been involved in the operation.

### 4 ❁ **The Flying Flower Pot** *(Pages 18-19)*

During a boisterous convention, there had been a lot of trouble caused by guests at a hotel. There were incidents of drunkenness and loud parties. A woman walking by the hotel was hit by a flower pot that came flying out the window of the hotel. Her eye was badly injured.

### 5 ❁ **The Bitter Survivor** *(Pages 20-21)*

A woman and her husband were talking with her doctor, because she would have a baby soon. They were Jehovah's Witnesses and signed a form demanding that doctors not interfere should something go wrong in the birth. They didn't want any doctor interference with God's plan. Of course, she had complications, and a doctor intervened and saved her life.

### 6 ❁ **The Show-Off** *(Pages 22-23)*

A teenage boy broke into his parents' locked cabinet and took his dad's pistol to a party that night. There he accidentally shot a girl of fifteen, injuring her.

### 7 ❁ **The Severed Foot** *(Pages 24-25)*

A little boy trespassed onto the property of a railroad company and was playing around near a railroad turntable (where they turn the engines around) after the place was closed. When other kids started the turntable moving, the boy got caught in the machine and his foot was severed.

### 8 ❁ **The Dangerous Foul Ball** *(Pages 26-27)*

A young woman was attending a local minor league baseball game. She was sitting past the point where the protective fence ended. She was hit by a foul ball and injured.

### 9 ❁ **Bengals vs. Broncos** *(Pages 28-29)*

A Denver Broncos football player was hurt by a Bengals player after a play was over during a pro football game. The Bengals player was feeling frustrated because his team was losing, so he hit the Broncos player in the neck, injuring him.

### 10 ❁ **The Spring-Gun** *(Pages 30-31)*

A man was tired of people trespassing onto his property. He did not live on the property, but he wanted to protect it, so he set up an automatic shotgun in an upstairs room of the abandoned house he owned. The gun was set to go off if someone opened the door to the room. One day someone did just that and was severely injured.

### 11 ❁ **The Angry Spitter** *(Pages 32-33)*

Two men were leaving the courtroom after a trial. One had won a settlement, and the other had lost and had to pay the winner a fine. As they were leaving, the loser spat in the face of the winner, an act that most people in the courtroom saw.

### 12 ❁ **The Missing Blade Guard** *(Pages 34-35)*

A man bought a power saw which had a blade guard. But when he used the saw, he found that in some cases the blade guard impeded the efficiency of the saw a bit. So, against the warnings on the saw and package, he used it without the guard, and he was hurt.

- 13 ❁ **The Unlucky Poodle** *(Pages 36-37)*  
A woman was walking her pet dog when it was attacked by another dog and dismembered and killed in front of her eyes. The sight of her pet's horrible death caused her emotional distress.
- 14 ❁ **The Perilous Crosswalk** *(Pages 38-39)*  
Usually there was a crossing guard at the street where the mother's little boy crossed to go to school in the morning. After a couple of weeks of accompanying her son, one day the mother decided to let him go alone, because she was sure a guard would be there to help. However, that day the guard was sick, and the police did not arrange for another guard. The little boy was injured by a car as he crossed the street.
- 15 ❁ **The Golf Course Drop-Off** *(Pages 40-41)*  
Two drunken men were behaving noisily in downtown Newburgh one night. The police arrived to get them off the street. Rather than take the men to jail, the police drove them out of the city to a golf course and told the men to sleep it off. The police left the men there and drove off. The men were about a mile from the freeway, and they walked over there and onto the road. One man was hit by a car and killed. The other was injured.
- 16 ❁ **Wanted: Willie Sutton** *(Pages 42-43)*  
The city's police asked for the public's help in catching the notorious criminal Willie Sutton. One man came forth with tips for the police, but he was threatened a few weeks later and then shot dead. The police had not given him any special protection, though he had been threatened.
- 17 ❁ **Lye in the Face** *(Pages 44-45)*  
A woman was threatened for about six months by her ex-boyfriend. He said he would harm her because she had left him for another man. She asked the police to provide protection for her, but the police did nothing. One day, a hired thug threw lye at her face and she was scarred for life. Her former boyfriend had hired the thug.

### 18 ❁ **The Simultaneous Shooters** *(Pages 46-47)*

Three men went into the countryside to go hunting for quail. As they were in a bushy area, a quail flew up in front of the men. Two of the men shot at the quail, but some of the pellets hit their friend, who was standing near the quail when they fired their guns.

### 19 ❁ **The Contaminated Water** *(Pages 48-49)*

A man got sick with typhoid fever, probably from drinking contaminated water at the place where he worked. The water was supplied by the city of Rochester, and the city knew for a while that the water was contaminated. The man was ill for a few months and missed work.

### 20 ❁ **Stubby the Tiger** *(Pages 50-51)*

The city bought a tiger named Stubby for its zoo. It weighed 300 pounds and was kept at first in a small warehouse. A few people petted Stubby and touched him. One man put his hand into Stubby's cage. Stubby bit the man's arm and would not let go. His jaws had to be pried open, and the man was, of course, severely injured.

### 21 ❁ **The Frightening Flopper** *(Pages 52-53)*

A man went to Coney Island amusement park one afternoon to have fun on some of the many exciting rides. One ride, called "The Flopper," threw people around in a jerky way. The man was looking for a thrill, and the slight risk of falling was part of the appeal. Unfortunately, he was thrown to the floor and suffered a broken kneecap.

### 22 ❁ **The Murdered Hostage** *(Pages 54-55)*

A man was doing some business in a bank when an armed robber walked in and grabbed him. The robber put a gun to the man's head and told the bank teller to hand over a lot of money or he would shoot the man. The teller, instead of giving the robber money, dropped to the floor behind the counter. The robber then shot and killed the man and ran out of the bank.

**23 ❁ The Tragedy on the Lake** *(Pages 56-57)*

On a nice summer day, a group of people went out on Lake Minnetonka in a friend's boat to sail in the sun. The man knew some of the people, and others were friends of friends. After a couple of hours, the man anchored the boat near the shore. A young man, one of those the man did not know well, dived into the lake without warning. The water was only three feet deep, and the man hit the bottom, severing his spinal cord. He became a quadriplegic.

**24 ❁ The Fatal Boxing Match** *(Pages 58-59)*

Two guys decided to have a boxing match, just to see which one was better. They were not angry at each other. They only wanted to settle the question of their boxing abilities. Neither one used excessive force once the fight started (in front of a few friends). However, one of the punches hit one of the men the wrong way, and he died at the scene.

**25 ❁ Blackout in NYC** *(Pages 60-61)*

On July 13, at about 9:30 p.m., there was a complete electrical power failure in New York City. The blackout lasted for 25 hours. During that time, there were no lights, no air conditioning, nothing that required electricity. While the blackout lasted, there were many crimes and accidents that probably happened because of the lack of power. Sometimes people fell down stairs because the hallways were dark. Many complaints were registered against the City of New York.

**26 ❁ The Unconscious Driver** *(Pages 62-63)*

A young man was an epileptic, but he was a good patient who always took the medicine prescribed by his doctor. He did everything he was supposed to do in order to combat the condition. One day, though, he had an epileptic fit while he was driving. The fit made him unconscious, and his car went through the wall of Alice Holding's bike shop, hitting her and causing an injury.

**27 ❁ The Fatal Flying Tree** *(Pages 64-65)*

Two farmers were clearing trees from their land, so that they could plant more crops on their property. They were using explosives to blast the tree trunks from the ground. One blast was very strong and sent large pieces of wood high into the air and far from the site. A large piece fell on a woman who was on a road nearby. She was killed.

**28 ❁ Tremor's Tail** *(Pages 66-67)*

A man went to a minor league baseball game played at the stadium of the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes. The Quakes had a mascot called Tremor. Tremor was a man dressed in a strange outfit which included a large tail that he swung around. As the man watched the game, Tremor came near and playfully hit the man with the tail. When the man turned to see Tremor, a foul ball hit him in the face, hurting his mouth severely.

**29 ❁ The "Friendly" Football Game** *(Pages 68-69)*

A woman was at a Super Bowl party with a bunch of friends. During half-time, they decided to go outside and play a game of touch football. Everyone just started to play; there were no particular rules. At one point, the woman complained that the game was a little too rough, but she kept on playing anyway. On one play, someone on the other team accidentally stepped on her little finger after she fell down. Her finger was badly damaged and had to be amputated.

**30 ❁ The Exploding Parcel** *(Pages 70-71)*

A man was rushing to get a commuter train before it left the station. He was carrying a large bag. As he stepped onto the train, the guard helped him up, giving him a boost, but he dropped the bag. It exploded because it contained fireworks. The force of the explosion knocked over a huge scale on the platform, and the scale fell on and injured a woman sitting nearby.

**31 ❁ The Violent Bartender** *(Pages 72-73)*

A man who was employed as a bouncer at a bar had an argument with one of the patrons. The bouncer attacked the patron during the argument and threw him out of the bar, injuring him.

- 32 ❁ **The Defective Shopping Cart** (*Pages 74-75*)  
A lady was shopping in a grocery store when the shopping cart she was using lost a wheel, tipped over, and injured her.
- 33 ❁ **The Sick Corpse** (*Pages 76-77*)  
As part of his job an embalmer has to handle a lot of dead people. Usually, this is not dangerous, but sometimes a dead person may carry some sort of disease that should be avoided. In this case, the embalmer found out that the dead man, who had been brought to him from the local hospital, had AIDS.
- 34 ❁ **The Dangerous Marshmallows** (*Pages 78-79*)  
A young mother stopped at a grocery store to get a treat for her two sons, ages 7 and 2. The treat was a bag of marshmallows, which one of the sons had asked for. The next morning, the younger son stuffed some marshmallows into his mouth while his mom was still asleep. She awoke to find him not breathing. She got the marshmallow out of his throat, but it was too late, and the boy suffered permanent brain damage due to lack of oxygen.
- 35 ❁ **The Unpredictable Dog** (*Pages 80-81*)  
A woman took her large, aggressive dog to the vet to have it neutered. She thought that the operation would make the dog easier to handle. He had bitten three people in the past. The vet sedated the dog and performed the operation. But when the dog revived, it bit the vet three times.
- 36 ❁ **The Slippery Floor** (*Pages 82-83*)  
A woman aged 65 slipped and fell in a puddle of liquid soap that someone—no one knew who—had spilled on the floor of a Walmart store. She was injured as a result of her fall.
- 37 ❁ **Smoke in the Face** (*Pages 84-85*)  
An anti-smoking activist was appearing as a guest at an important local radio station. The show was about the harmful effects of smoking and took place on the date of the Great American Smokeout. In the studio at the time was an employee of the radio station who loved to smoke, and he blew smoke right into the face of the activist, causing a lot of discomfort.

**38 ❁ The Insulting Comment** *(Pages 86-87)*

A gay man was on the phone with a representative of Sears, and they were discussing the man's account. The man overheard the Sears employee refer to him in a derogatory way as the employee talked to another person at Sears. The gay man said that the words caused him a lot of mental distress.

**39 ❁ The Expensive Lunch Break** *(Pages 88-89)*

An employee of a security company was on a lunch break a few miles from her place of employment. While driving back to work, she hit a motorcyclist and his passenger, causing injury to both.

**40 ❁ The Driver Who Had a Stroke** *(Pages 90-91)*

A man was driving and had a mild stroke while at the wheel. He was not really aware of his problem because of the nature of the stroke, so he kept driving. He hit two cars that were parked and injured some people inside.