



THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA SUMMARY OF JUDGMENT DELIVERED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL

FROM The Registrar, Supreme Court of Appeal
DATE 25 September 2014
STATUS Immediate

Please note that the media summary is for the benefit of the media and does not form part of the judgment.

*Department of Health: Western Cape v Oppelt (238/2013) [2014] ZASCA 135
(29 August 2014)*

Media Statement

The respondent seriously injured his spine whilst playing rugby, which resulted in paralysis. He successfully instituted action against the appellant before the Western Cape High Court. The high court held that the appellant had negligently failed to treat his injury within four hours by a closed reduction technique. The high court held that if the respondent had been treated in this manner paralysis would probably not have resulted. The SCA upheld the appeal finding that the respondent had failed to prove that the conduct of the appellant was a factual cause of the respondent's paralysis.

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