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NEGLIGENCE - NEW YORK

Orellana v. Town of Carmel

Court of Appeals of New York - October 17, 2024 - N.E.3d - 2024 WL 4505721 - 2024 N.Y. Slip Op. 05131

Motorist brought negligence action against town and its superintendent of highways, seeking to recover for personal injuries she sustained as result of motor vehicle accident and alleging superintendent was negligent in failing to look both ways before entering intersection and causing collision.

The Supreme Court granted defendants' motion for summary judgment dismissing negligence claim and denied motorist's cross-motion for summary judgment as to liability on that claim, and the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, affirmed. Court of Appeals granted motorist leave to appeal.

The Court of Appeals held that superintendent was not actually engaged in work on highway at time he collided with another motorist.

Town superintendent of highways was not actually engaged in work on highway at time he collided with another motorist, and thus superintendent and town were not exempted from liability for ordinary negligence, pursuant to statute that indicated traffic regulations applicable to drivers of vehicles owned or operated by town did not apply to people while actually engaged in work on highway, in negligence action brought by motorist; accident occurred after superintendent had completed assessment of roadway conditions and mobilized team to salt roads, at time of accident superintendent was returning to work, and although superintendent saw snow accumulation shortly before collision, he took no action in response.