

PROVINCIAL COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA

Citation: R. v. Darren Lawrence, 2004 NSPC 7

Date: 20040112

Docket: 1295588

Registry: Halifax

Between:

Her Majesty the Queen

v.

Darren Lawrence

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Judge: The Honourable Judge Pamela S. Williams

Heard: November 24th and 25th, 2003 in Shubenacadie, NS

Written Decision: January 12, 2004

Subject: Criminal Law - Criminal Negligence Cause Bodily Harm - Discharging a Firearm

Summary: A young man, socializing with a group of teenage friends, was wounded by a shotgun blast to the face following the accidental discharge of a rifle by his friend, the accused.

Issue: Whether the actions of the accused showed a wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons.

Result: The accused, an experienced hunter, handled the rifle in a cavalier manner, failing to check if the weapon was loaded and failing to ensure it was not pointed in anyone's direction. His actions were reckless and showed a wanton disregard for the dangerousness of the situation and total disregard for the lives and safety of the others who were present.