

Ohio high court rules in deer decoy crash lawsuit

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) – The Ohio [Supreme](#) Court says a trial court was wrong when it applied a doctrine known as inferred intent in a case over a crash caused by a deer decoy put in a road.

Two teenagers hurt in the 2005 crash sued for damages. Insurers for teens accused of the decoy prank argued they didn't have to pay damages or defend the pranksters because the insurance policies had exemptions for intentional harm.

The lower court agreed. It did not determine the boys intended to cause harm but said there was inferred intent, meaning the prank was very likely to cause harm.

But the high court's lead opinion today said inferred intent applies only when a person's act and the harm caused are "intrinsically tied." The justices said that wasn't true with the decoy, which other drivers avoided.