

Torts
Harris v. Jones
281 Md. 560, 380 A.2d 611 (1977)

Keyword Subject

Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

Facts

Plaintiff was an employee at GM under the supervision of Defendant. Plaintiff suffered from a condition that caused him to stutter and shake his head while trying to pronounce multi-syllable words. Over the course of five months, defendant approached at work and mocked plaintiff's stutter over 30 times. Defendant additionally reprimanded plaintiff two or three times a week, telling him to "not get nervous". Plaintiff requested a transfer multiple times but each time Defendant refused.

Procedural History

Trial Court: In favor of plaintiff (\$3,500 compensatory damages and \$15,000 punitive damages)

Special Appeal: In favor of defendant (Judgement Overruled)

Appeal: In favor of defendant (Judgement Affirmed)

Issue

Was the conduct intentional?

Was the conduct extreme and outrageous?

Was there a casual connection between the wrongful conduct and the emotional distress?

Was the emotional distress severe?

Holding: Yes on all counts except the last; Judgment Affirmed

Principle

Reasoning

Separate Opinions

Notes