

**United States District Court
Northern District of Indiana
Hammond Division**

ANDREW J. SAJDA, JR., and JOSEPHINE) SAJDA, as Administrator of the ESTATE) OF ANDREW J. SAJDA, SR.,)) Plaintiffs,)) v.)) FLOYD BREWTON and R&L) TRANSFER, INC., a corporation, and) R & L CARRIERS SHARED) SERVICES, LLC.,)) Defendants.)	Civil Action No. 2:08-CV-255 JVB
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OPINION & ORDER

On February 15, 2011, Plaintiffs filed a Motion to Reconsider the Court's grant of summary judgment in favor of Defendant regarding Plaintiff's punitive damages claims and the Court's order limiting the testimony of expert witness Walter Guntharp.

Although motions for reconsideration are not specifically authorized by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Seventh Circuit and this district apply Rule 59(e) standards to these motions. *Wagner v. Nutrasweet Co.*, 873 F. Supp. 87, 101–02 (N.D. Ill. 1994); *see also Quaker Alloy Casting Co. v. Gulfco Indus., Inc.*, 123 F.R.D. 282, 288 n.9 (N.D. Ill. 1988). The Seventh Circuit has discussed the role of the motion to reconsider:

A motion for reconsideration performs a valuable function where the Court has patently misunderstood a party, or has made a decision outside the adversarial issues presented to the Court by the parties, or has made an error not of reasoning but of apprehension. A further basis for a motion to reconsider would be a controlling or significant change in the law or facts since the submission of the issue to the Court.

Bank of Waunakee v. Rochester Cheese Sales, Inc., 906 F.2d 1185, 1191 (7th Cir. 1990)

(citations omitted).

However useful motions for reconsideration may be, the problems that justify such motions “rarely arise and the motion to reconsider should be equally rare.” *Id.* Motions for reconsideration “are not at the disposal of parties who want to ‘rehash’ old arguments . . . and such motions are not appropriate vehicles for introducing evidence that could have been produced prior to the entry of judgment or for tendering new legal theories for the first time.” *Wagner*, 873 F. Supp. at 101–02 (citations omitted).

In their motion to reconsider, Plaintiffs do not present any new facts that were not available earlier nor any new law so as to compel a reconsideration of the Court’s decision. In fact, Plaintiffs did not cite any legal authority whatsoever in their Motion to Reconsider. Nor have Plaintiffs shown that the Court has patently misunderstood them, or has made a decision outside the adversarial issues presented by the parties. Accordingly, Plaintiff’s Motion to Reconsider [DE 100] is DENIED.

SO ORDERED on February 17, 2011.

s/ Joseph S. Van Bokkelen
Joseph S. Van Bokkelen
United States District Judge