STATE OF MICHIGAN

COURT OF APPEALS

SHEILA WOODMAN, as Next Friend of TRENT WOODMAN, a Minor,

FOR PUBLICATION August 12, 2008

Plaintiff-Appellee,

V

No. 275079 Kent Circuit Court LC No. 06-000802-NO

KERA, L.L.C., d/b/a BOUNCE PARTY,

Defendant-Appellant.

SHEILA WOODMAN, as Next Friend of TRENT WOODMAN, a Minor,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

v

No. 275882 Kent Circuit Court LC No. 06-000802-NO

KERA, L.L.C., d/b/a BOUNCE PARTY,

Defendant-Appellee.

Before: Bandstra, P.J., and Talbot and Schuette, JJ.

SCHUETTE, J. (concurring).

First, I concur with my distinguished colleague, Judge Talbot, that plaintiff did not establish that defendant's conduct was grossly negligent; that the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, MCL 445.901 *et seq.*, has no applicability to this case; and that the facts, circumstances, and pleadings of this case do not involve a premises liability action.

I further concur, although reluctantly, in the conclusion reached by Judge Talbot that judicial precedent in the state of Michigan requires this reviewing court to invalidate the preinjury waiver of liability signed by the minor child's father in this case. I also strongly share the sentiments expressed in the concurring opinion of my distinguished colleague, Judge Bandstra. I write separately to emphasize several issues of extreme legal and policy significance that should be addressed as a consequence of this decision.

Plaintiff's claim concerning the validity of a pre-injury, parental waiver of liability for a minor is a newly emerging issue for our courts. As described in Judge Talbot's thorough

opinion, courts across the United States are grappling with this issue, and now it is Michigan's turn. I believe that under *McKinstry v Valley Obstetrics-Gynecology Clinic*, *PC*, 428 Mich 167, 192; 405 NW2d 88 (1987), we are required to invalidate a pre-injury, parental waiver of liability of a minor child.

In *McKinstry*, a pre-injury waiver case, our Supreme Court determined that a mother could bind her unborn child to arbitration under the Medical Malpractice Arbitration Act (MMAA), MCL 600.5046(2).¹ Our Supreme Court stated:

Our interpretation of §5046(2) is a departure from the common-law rule that a parent has no authority to waive, release, or compromise claims by or against a child. *Schofield v Spilker*, 37 Mich App 33; 194 NW2d 549 (1971); *Reliance Ins Co v Haney*, 54 Mich App 237; 220 NW2d 728 (1974); 67A CJS, Parent and Child, §114, pp 469-470. However, the common law can be modified or abrogated by statute. *Bean v McFarland*, 280 Mich 19; 273 NW 332 (1937); *O'Brien v Hazelet & Erdal*, 410 Mich 1; 299 NW2d 336 (1980). Thus, a child can be bound by a parent's act when a statute grants that authority to a parent. *Reliance Ins Co, supra*, p 242; *Wilson v Kaiser Foundation Hospitals*, 141 Cal App 3d 891; 190 Cal Rptr 649 (1983). We believe that §5046(2) of the MMAA changes the common law to permit a parent to bind a child to an arbitration agreement. [*McKinstry*, *supra* at 192-193.]

Some might argue that the above-referenced quotation is dictum and hence not binding on lower courts in Michigan.² Or, some might contend that the plain meaning and use of the word "claim" by our Supreme Court in *McKinstry* may only be interpreted to apply to postinjury waivers, because a claim can only occur after, not before, an injury has been caused.³ Yet, in *McKinstry*, our Supreme Court stated that "the common law can be modified or abrogated by statute," *McKinstry*, *supra* at 192, seemingly implying that, in the absence of a statute to the contrary, Michigan adheres to the common-law rule prohibiting parental waiver of liability in pre-injury, as well as post-injury, situations.

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court 2. The assertion of an existing right; any right to payment or to an equitable remedy, even if contingent or provisional 3. A demand for money or property to which one asserts a right [Black's Law Dictionary (7th ed.), p 240.]

1. The aggregate of operative facts giving rise to a right enforceable by a

¹ MCL 600.5046(2) was repealed by 1993 PA 78, effective October 1, 1993.

² Dictum is "'judicial comment made during the course of delivering a judicial opinion, but one that is unnecessary to the decision in the case and therefore not precedential (though it may be considered persuasive).'" *Carr v City of Lansing*, 259 Mich App 376, 383-384; 674 NW2d 168 (2003) (citations omitted).

³ A claim is defined as:

The decision in this case is bound to have enormous consequence and profound impact throughout Michigan. Of equal significance will be our Supreme Court's review of this decision, given the dearth of pre-injury, parental waiver of liability cases in Michigan and the wide variety of rulings emerging in other jurisdictions throughout the federal and state courts of this nation. See, e.g., *Brooks v Timberline Tours, Inc*, 941 F Supp 959 (D Colo, 1996); *Lantz v Iron Horse Saloon, Inc*, 717 So 2d 590 (Fla App, 1998); *Sharon v City of Newton*, 437 Mass 99; 769 NE2d 738 (2002); *Hojnowski v Vans Skate Park*, 187 NJ 323; 901 A2d 381 (2006); *Zivich v Mentor Soccer Club, Inc*, 82 Ohio St 3d 367; 696 NE2d 201 (1998). Of similar importance is the manner and speed with which the Michigan Legislature responds to this public policy issue, given the absence of any statute codifying the validity and scope of pre-injury, parental waivers of liability for a minor. Most certainly, legislators will come to hear about the impacts of this decision from constituents and interest groups of every competing philosophy and occupation.

Certainly, no one in the Michigan judiciary desires to turn a deaf ear or a blind eye to wayward businesses, dishonorable non-profit organizations, or volunteer groups that might place a child in a dangerous situation, notwithstanding a parent executing a release and waiving liability for resulting injury. Equally significant is the fact that an immense amount of youth activities—church groups, Boy Scouts, sports camps of all kinds, orchestra and theatrical events, and countless school functions—run and operate on release and waiver of liability forms for minor children.⁴

Voices will be heard, as this Court heard during oral argument, that no court of law should acquiesce to a piece of paper protecting a business, non-profit organization, or school group from liability when a child is injured. Equally strong will be the chorus of church, school, and volunteer organizations, and passionate parents, de-crying the "chilling effect" of the invalidation of pre-injury waivers, freezing out adult volunteers from participating in youth activities and camps of all kinds, with a Sword of Damocles, liability speaking, lurking in the weeds or hanging over their heads.

⁴ Appended to this opinion are but a few examples of pre-injury, parental waivers, which demonstrate their wide-spread use. Such waivers are utilized by youth and community organizations, universities, and non-profit groups for an immense array of activities across Michigan, including: Arcadia Daze 5K Run (Appendix A), Spring Hill Summer Camps (Appendix B), Jeff Trickey Quarterback Camps (Appendix C), University of Michigan Gymnastics Camp (Appendix D), Ann Arbor YMCA (Appendix E), Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon (Appendix F), and Wayne State University Fitness Kids' Summer Camp (Appendix G).

⁵ The "Sword of Damocles" was a sword suspended over the head of Damocles in a Greek myth. Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sword_of_Damocles_%28disambiguation%29 (accessed July 29, 2008).

But in the end, the Michigan Legislature will have to determine whether a statutory exception to the common-law rule for pre-injury waivers should be adopted, and whether there should be any differentiation between profit and non-profit groups as some states have seen fit to do. See *Sharon*, *supra* at 109-110; *Zivich*, *supra* at 372; *Hohe v San Diego Unified School Dist*, 224 Cal App 3d 1559, 1564; 274 Cal Rptr 647 (1990). I hope that the Michigan Legislature acts thoroughly and promptly.

/s/ Bill Schuette



ARCADIA DAZE RUN WAIVER

I know that participating in a foot race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter unless I am medically able. I assume all risks associated with participation in this event, including, but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, the effect of the weather, traffic, and the condition of the road, with all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read the waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of you accepting my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my Behalf, waive and release the Arcadia Lions Club, and all other sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims of liabilities of any kind arising out of my particlpation in this event. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs, motion pictures, recording, or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

Signature
Parent Signature if under 18 years of age

Date

Sponsored by Arcadia Lions Club and made possible with financial support by B J Hopwood Inc., General Contractor

May copy this form.

SpringHill Summer Can	nps 2008 Registration Form	g2g!	Please pl	notocopy if you need more than one card.
8	FAMILY	INFORMATION		
Camper First Name Ca	mper Last Name Birth d	date Grade Cor	mpleted (by 6/15/08) G	ender Camper Email
Parent or Guardian's Full Name	Spouse's Name	Father Cell Phone		Mother Cell
treet Address	City	S	tate Zip Code	County
Home Phone Confirmations will be sent to the parent Camper's previous camp attendance: Please enter the week and program for	Business Telephone (indicate who email address unless USPS mail is requested Michigan Camp Indiana Camyour first two choices below:	d here:	nil Address None	
1st Choice: Michigan Indiana Week Program	2nd Choice: ☐ Michigan ☐ Indiana Week Program	Program Number	ichigan Indiana	TST 2nd Choice: Michigan Indian Program Number [from Schedule]
Roommate Choices: (No more than 3 fr				(non-seriodale)
Roommate 1 Room	nmate Email Address	Roommate 2	Room	mate Email Address
Annual Control of the		INFORMATION		
	yment options. (U.S. dollars only) Your sign nt method. It may take up to 5 days to pro		0 deposit as well as	automatic collection of your balance due
ignature	ellations within 21 days prior to camp start e,	\$75 is non-refundable. C	ancellations after M	e for us to process your registration) ay 1st, 2008 up till 21 days prior to camp sta sst of camp. No-shows for a scheduled can
하게 되었다면서 가게 되었다. 그는 다른 이번 가는 어떻게 되었다면서 가장 하는 것이 되었다면서 하는 사람들이 되었다면서 하는데 없었다면 하는데 없었다.		ed or authorized: \$	(Registrations n	nade after April 21 will require full payment.)
1. Electronic transfer from checking ac				
3/4. Debit/Credit Card: Visa Mc	Credit Card Numbe	IAL NEEDS?		ration Name on Card (please print)
Does your camper have any <u>physica</u>		Does your camp	er currently receive	special assistance at school ? Yes Andrews And
Please indicate the severity of all applic		Muscle (MDS/CP/Other)		Additional Information:
Mild Moderate	000	paired 123 Food A	llergies:	
	000	y Blind 123 Other;		
	zure Disorder 123 Behavior Co 123 Emotional C			-
	receives the level of attention needed to		chicke camp evoe	dence Our staff will contact you if there is
concern that your camper's needs ma	y require additional assistance from our st	aff, or potentially exceed	our ability to provid	de exceptional care to him/her and others.
	LIMITED PURPOS	SE POWER OF ATTOR	NEY	
 Consent to Treatment of a Minor A. By signature below, the undersigned another person, the power to consent 	appoints Michael Perry, Todd Leinberger, I t on our behalf to all emergency treatmer	Bill Dinsmore, Craig Soder nt and/or medical care (e	dahl, or Andrew Sitt except elective surg	e each to act alone, or delegate to ery) determined necessary or desirable
by the attending physician at the hos 3. This Power of Attorney shall continue to	until revoked by the undersigned, or until A	August 15, 2008, whicheve	er is earlier. Physicia	ns or the hospital's medical staff may
	being current and in effect during such per re read this Power of Attorney (or had it re			of Attorney and sign it voluntarily.
[201] [6] [2] [6] [1] [6] [1] [6] [6] [6] [6] [6] [6] [6] [6] [6] [6	nt for SpringHill Participants (Age 17 ar			3
By signature below, I certify the follow SpringHill activities and programs, is co- participating. I further recognize and of camp participants, and (3) I under	ing: {1) that my child's participation in Spri ompletely voluntary, and (2) that I have for I have instructed my child in the important stand that SpringHill reserves the right to re	ingHill activities and prog amiliarized myself with the ce of knowing and abidir afuse admission to any ca	SpringHill activities on ag by SpringHill's rule mper that they feel	and programs in which my child will be is, regulations and procedures for the safety could be a detriment to any other camper
specifically, but not limited to, the act that although SpringHill has taken safe equipment premises and/or activities risk of injury and loss, both to the perso with my child's participation in Spring!	tivities of horseback riding, swimming, blob ety measures to minimize the risk of injury to will be free of hazards, accidents and/or on and to property, and that the risks may Hill activities and programs.	obing, rock climbing, ziplir o camp participants, Spri injuries. Moreover, I unde include the possibility of	ne, paintball, rappel ngHill cannot insure irstand that participo permanent disability	nor guarantee that the participants, ation in any such activities may involve the or death, I assume all such risks connected
jeopardizing the care of the camper	of a serious illness or injury, every effort wil or minor staff. Parents or guardians will be	notified if their child rece	eives treatments for	an injury/illness that requires a physician.
I understand that there may be elem- release and agree to indemnify and I	ents of risk associated with activities at car nold harmless SpringHill and its trustees, offi	mp. I give permission for icers, employees, agents	my child to participo , and volunteers from	ate in all activities at camp and hereby in any and all claims of any nature arising

III. P	hoto	Re	leas	e
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Photographs and video footage of my child as a result of participation in activities at SpringHill may be used in SpringHill's promotional materials or website.

Parent or Guardian's Legal Signature (Signature required for admittance into Summer Camp)

Jeff Trickey Quarterback Camps

2008 QUARTERBACK CAMP APPLICATION FORM

My son has my permission to attend the JEFF TRICKEY QB CAMP. I certify that within the past two years, he has had a physical examination and that now, he is physically able to participate in football camp activities without restriction. In the event of an illness or injury, I give my consent for medical treatment and

permission to attending physician to hospitalize, secure proper treatment, and order injections, anesthesia, or surgery. I will be responsible for any medical or other charges in connection with my son's attendance in camp.

I acknowledge that at the JEFF TRICKEY QB CAMP my son will participate in a sport that may involve, among other things, physical contact of the body with other persons or objects, including the ground, and that at the JEFF TRICKEY QB CAMP, he may incur a risk of injury. I specifically waive, give up and release the JEFF TRICKEY QB CAMP and staff from liability for any claim for damages which I or my son may have for injuries or illness that he may sustain at camp.

Camper Signature:	
Parent's Signature:	

NO PLAYER WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PARENTAL APPROVAL

Important Michigan Gymnastics Camp Information:

Parent/Guardian Consent, Medical Release and Release from Liability Agreement

	information carefully before signi eted. Please read the following infor	
Activity:	Activity Time Period:	
Activity Sponsor:		
Participant Name:		(1)
Parent/Guardian Name(s):		- Company of the Comp
In consideration for allow of Participant, agree to the		vity, I/we, as parents and/or guardians
Authorize Participant to p	articipate in the Activity for the Act	rivity Time Period stated above.
except for damages cause	old harmless the Activity Sponsor and by the sole gross negligence or into of the participation of Participant in	nd University from any and all damages, centional misconduct of Activity Sponsor the Activity.
sufficient opportunity to it	nt of the Activity, I/we were made a nquire further, and understand the A half of Participant, all those inheren	aware of the nature of the Activity, had activity has inherent risks and I/we and t risks.
University and Activity S alcohol is prohibited and	ponsor. Possession of fireworks, ex cause for immediate expulsion from	ne policies, rules and regulations of the plosives, any weapon, illegal drugs or the Activity. Further, any Participant s, rules or regulations may be expelled from
Sponsor") the authority to limited to x-ray examinat care which may be recom surgeon, for Participant w during his/her participation any costs incurred and age their employees and agen	o seek, obtain, and approve any medion, anesthetic, medical, dental or someoned and provided under the general phich, in their judgment, is necessar on in the Activity. I/We further agree to hold the Activity Sponsor and	s, nurses and agents (collectively, "Activity lical care and treatment including, but not argical diagnosis, or treatment and medical heral supervision of any physician or y for the health and well-being of Participant e that I/we are(am) solely responsible for I the Regents of the University of Michigan, less for any liability arising out of any good ant.
The above agreements are	e binding upon us, our estates, heirs	, representatives and assigns.
Parent/Guardian Signatur	re	Date
Parent/Guardian Signatur	-e	Date
Participant Signature		Date

Ann Arbor YMCA School Age Permission Form

FIELD TRIP/TRANSPORTATION PERMISSION	
I give permission for my child	_, to be transported by the Ann Arbor YMCA
from his/her school to the YMCA on the days he/she is i	
to go on any field trips supervised by the Ann Arbor YM	
consist of short walks to nearby locations. I understand	"하게 [하게 1] : [하게 하게 하게 하게 하게 되었다. 그리 하실하게, 이번에 하게 하게 되었다면 하게 하게 되었다. 그리아 하게 하게 되었다면 하게 하게 하게 하게 하게 되었다. 그렇게 하루다.
longer trips and that, if any vehicle is used to transport n	ny child, each child will be required to wear a seat
belt or be placed in a car seat that I would provide.	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING PERMISSION	
I hereby irrevocably release, consent and allow the Ann	Arbor VMCA and its agents to use my child's
photograph/likeness/voice, as it pertains to participation	
efforts without expectation of any reimbursement in con-	
<u>.</u>	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
LIABILITY	
I understand the physical activities which my child may	
be limited to: swimming, running, playing and sports. I a	agree to assume all liability and release the YMCA
from any liability for the risk of injury, illness or death of	on account of my child's presence in a YMCA
facility or on account of my child's involvement in any a	activity at a YMCA facility or at the sponsored
activity.	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Signature	Bate
SWIMMING	
I give permission for my child	, to participate in the YMCA
Youth Aquatics Program. A kindergartner or school-age	ed child may participate in youth recreation swim
when available.	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
SUNSCREEN/BUG SPRAY	
My child (circle one) should should not wear suns	screen while being outdoors. Please apply first
application at home. Sunscreen should be supplied by y	ou, the parent. I understand that selecting should
allows staff to apply sunscreen to my child. This does n	ot guarantee application.
My child (circle one) should should not wear bug	spray while being outdoors. Please apply first
application at home. Bug spray should be supplied by y	you the parent. Lunderstand that selecting "should"
allows staff to apply bug spray to my child. This does n	
anows start to approvoug spray to my emita. This does n	Summing approximation
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
•	
PHYSICAL HEALTH	
I hereby attest that my child	is in good health. Further more any activity
restrictions, allergies, medications taken by the child, or	any other needs are listed in the Child Information
Record. Immunization records or appropriate waivers a	re up to date and on file with my child's school.
Denont/Counting Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon: - October 19, 2008 Registration Fees | Registration Form



In consideration of your accepting this entry, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for liability and damages I may have against the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon ("Marathon"), its employees, agents, officers, governors, sponsors and volunteers, Detroit Free Press, Inc., Flagstar, Detroit Newspaper Partnership the Cities of Detroit and Windsor, USA Track and

Printable Release

Name of Parent/Guardian: I required if participant is under 18
By entering my name above, I represent that I, as a valid parent/guardian, am completing this form and agree to the above waiver/release.

LAccept I Do Not Accept

Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon Waiver/Release

In consideration of your accepting this entry, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for liability and damages I may have against the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon ("Marathon"), its employees, agents, officers, governors, sponsors and volunteers, Detroit Free Press, Inc., Flagstar, Detroit Newspaper Partnership, the Cities of Detroit and Windsor, USA Track and Field, and their representatives, successors and assigns, for any and all injuries or death suffered by me in or arising from said event. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to understand the risks and determine whether I am fit to safely complete this event and the precautions I should take. I attest and certify that my physical condition and ability to safely complete this event have been verified by a licensed medical doctor (except where the latter is in violation of religious principles); and that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained to complete this and future competitions. I grant to the Marathon and its sponsors and licensees the exclusive right to the free use of my name, voice and/or picture in any broadcast, telecast, advertising, promotion or other account of this event. I acknowledge that my entry fee is non-refundable and non-transferable, even if the race is cancelled. I agree that any legal claim or dispute arising out of or in any way relating to my participation in this event will be governed by the laws of Michigan and will be adjudicated exclusively by and in the Courts of Michigan.

The registrant acknowledges that MarathonGuide.com/Web Marketing Associates has no responsibility for the operation of the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon and associated events and is only acting as an agent to register applicants who wish to participate in the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon and associated events. Accordingly, the registrant agrees to hold MarathonGuide.com/Web Marketing Associates and its agents harmless from any liability or injury resulting from the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon and associated events. Furthermore, the registrant agrees that it shall have no claim against MarathonGuide.com/Web Marketing Associates for any injury that may occur during the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon and associated events. The individual event operators and sponsors have provided information included in this site and MarathonGuide.com/Web Marketing Associates does not verify the accuracy or completeness thereof. All confirmed orders are final once payment is submitted. MarathonGuide.com/Web Marketing Associates does not issue refunds.

2008
Mort Harris Recreation
and Fitness Center

Youth Fitness Camp



Fun and Fitness 11-15 yrs.

Wayne State University 5210 Gullen Mall Detroit, MI 48202 313-577-2348 www.rfc.wayne.edu

MORT HARRIS

WAIVER AND RELEASE STATEMENT. All exercise and participation is done at the risk of the participant (s). Wayne State University, its employees and agents are not liable for personal injury. By signing this form, I am releasing Wayne State University, its employees and agents from any and all claims for injuries, including bodily injury, damages and property loss the participant (s) might sustain through participation in any Wayne State University Recreation and Fitness Center programs. I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain medical clearance for the participant (s) if necessary and that I will be personally responsible for the cost of any medical expenses incurred by the participant (s) as a result of participating in any Recreation and Fitness Center activities. This Waiver and Release is binding on my and the participant's heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns. In the event that the paricipants (s) require emergency treatment and neither I nor the designed emergency contact can be reached, then I consent to the provision of emergency treatment by a licensed physician or hospital. I have read and understand this paragraph. I gave Wayne State University, its employees and agents the irrevocable right to use my child's, picture, portrait, or photograph in all forms and media and in all manners, including composite, for advertising, for publication or any other lawful purposes, and I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written copy, which may be created in connection therewith.

Signature	Date
Printed Name	