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Course: EDAL 560 K-12 Law
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Case Analysis

Abington Township v. Schempp

Case Analysis Relevant Facts: The Baltimore school district in Pennsylvania enacted a statute requiring that in the public schools ten Bible verses be read to the children including "recitation of the Lord's Prayer" (LexisNexis, n.d.) each morning without comment. Given a written request from their parents or guardians, students can be excused from readings and recitation of the Lord's Prayer. The Schempp family brought suit against the school district saying that the statute violated their rights under the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court voted that the statute was in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Legal Issue: Whether the statute allowing the reading of the verses in the public schools, first thing in the morning, on each school day, is unconstitutional as per the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Opinion of the Court: The court ruled that such religious exercises in the public schools is a direct violation of the First Amendment and is, therefore, unconstitutional.

Reasons for the Court Opinion: According to the First Amendment, Church and State are supposed to be separated and the state cannot rule for the "free exercise" of religion in the public schools.

Reference

LexisNexis. (n.d.). Sch. Dist. of Abington Twp. v. Schempp - 374 U.S. 203, 83 S. Ct. 1560 (1963). Retrieved on October 3, 2021, from <https://www.lexisnexis.com/community/casebrief/p/casebrief-sch-dist-of-abington-twp-v-schempp#>

Grade (A)/Comments

This case, (Abingdon v Schempp) showcases the role of religion in public schools. Two state courts disagreed and so it went to the Supreme Court.

Nicole, I appreciated very much your analysis of the most important facts of the case.

Your write-up of the Relevant Facts of the case was Excellent. Your description of the legal issues and the Court's answer was Great

The Reasons for the Court's Opinion Section was Excellent - concise and precise

Thanks for another great experience in reading your papers Nicole. You are really doing great work in this class

Thought for YOUR day

Psalms 34: 4-5

I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!