

Summary Statement

Krinit v. Idaho Dep't of Fish & Game and State of Idaho
Docket No. 44326

The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the Lewis County district court's grant of summary judgment in favor of the State of Idaho and the Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and imposition of sanctions against IDFG. The district court ruled that IDFG was a statutory employer under Idaho Worker's Compensation Act, and consequently, IDFG was entitled to immunity for actions brought for work-related fatal injuries to Perry Krinit, Jr. (Krinit). The district court, however, imposed sanctions against IDFG, requiring it to pay for Krinit's reasonable expenses and attorney fees incurred after January 31, 2014, because IDFG filed a dispositive motion in violation of the district court's scheduling order. Both Krinit and IDFG appealed. Krinit argued that IDFG was not Krinit's statutory employer, and, even if it was, IDFG waived its statutory employer defense. IDFG argued that the district court abused its discretion by imposing sanctions against it. On appeal, the Idaho Supreme Court held that IDFG did not waive its statutory employer defense, and moreover, that IDFG was Krinit's statutory employer. The Court further held that the district court did not abuse its discretion by imposing sanctions against IDFG.