

Supreme Court Case Analysis*

SUPREME COURT CASE ANALYSIS

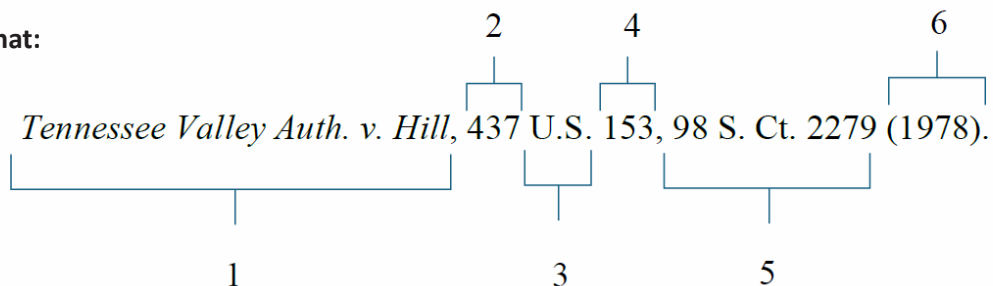
Case Citation: In the format shown below, what is the name of the case you are examining?

Example: *Dollree Mapp v. State of Ohio*, 367 U.S. 643, 81 S. Ct. 1684 (1961). Shorthand citation includes parties involved in the case and the year the case was decided, e.g. *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961).

F	Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the facts of the case? <p>Dollree Map accused police of obtaining evidence used against her without a valid search warrant.</p>
I	Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What issues are under examination? <p>The case examined whether illegally obtained evidence can be used in a trial.</p>
D	Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the decision of the court? <p>The court held that illegally obtained evidence cannot be used in a trial. A search warrant must be obtained to gather evidence against the accused if it is allowed to be used in court.</p>
S	Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why was the decision important <i>vis-à-vis stare decisis</i> (i.e., precedent?) Did the decision establish new case law, or overturn or build upon previous case law? <p><i>Mapp v. Ohio</i> (1949) established the exclusionary rule: If the police obtain evidence without a valid search warrant it is not admissible in court; and characterized illegally obtained evidence as “fruit of the poisonous tree”. Additionally, it overturned <i>Wolf v. Colorado</i> (1949).</p>

*See *Constitutional Interpretation 10th Ed., by Craig R. Ducat, 2013; American Constitutional Interpretation 5th Ed., by Walter F. Murphy et al., 2014*

Case Citation Format:



1. Parties in the case. The plaintiff (or appellant, or petitioner, depending on which court the case was heard in) appears first, followed by “versus,” abbreviated to simply “v.” and the name of the defendant (or appellee, or responder). The names of the parties are also typically abbreviated, such as “Auth.” for “Authority” in this example.
2. Volume number of the official reporter that the case appears in.
3. Abbreviation of the name of the reporter in which the published case appears.
4. The first page in the reporter on which the case appears
5. The volume, reporter, and first page number of the parallel citation. A parallel citation is the same case as it appears in a different reporter. Historically, parallel citations were typically provided as a courtesy so that the reader can find the citation based on reporters available for him or her to use. However, this was more common when users relied heavily on print reporters. Now that many users consult electronic reporters, whose search functions can find cases from a variety of reporter citations, this practice is diminishing. However, the inclusion of parallel citations can vary based on the court.
6. The year that the case was decided (not the date that the case was initiated). This parenthetical also often includes the abbreviation of the name of the court, which appears before the date.

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