

IRAC with a Case Illustration (IRCAC)

One of the most common variations of IRAC is one that includes case illustrations in between the rule and application paragraphs. A case illustration is simply where you describe the facts, holding, and analysis from a case you read in class to either compare or contrast to the fact pattern that your professor provided for you. It is important that you ask your professor before the exam what their expectations are for using case illustrations.

The order of IRAC when you use a case illustration will change. You will instead write IRCAC. This order of letters means that you will write the issue, followed by the rule, and then insert a case illustration, then the application, and conclusion. When you write the application, you want to ensure that you are applying both the rule paragraph and the case illustration to the facts provided in the hypothetical. For more information on how to write and use a case illustration, *How to Effectively Use Cases on an Exam*.

To work through IRCAC, let's consider this hypothetical: *Professor Joe was angry at a student for not preparing for class well enough. When he saw the student in the hallway after class, his anger took over and he ripped the student's backpack off of his back. Did Professor Joe make contact as required for a battery?*

The issue is whether Professor Joe made contact.

Contact is an element of battery requiring that there must be contact with the plaintiff's person. Contact need not be direct (body to body contact), as indirect contact is sufficient if contact is made with an object closely associated with the body (Fisher).

In Fisher v. Motor Hotel, Defendant grabbed a plate out of Plaintiff's hands. While Defendant's body never physically came in contact with the body of Plaintiff, the court held that there was contact and a battery. The court held that there was sufficient contact for a battery here because Defendant grabbed something that Plaintiff was holding, which made the plate part of his body. Thus, there was contact through indirect contact.

Here, there is sufficient contact. Although there is no direct contact because Professor Joe's body did not come in contact with the student's body, there is indirect contact. Our case is extremely similar to Fisher because in both the defendant is touching something closely associated with the plaintiff's body. Like a plate, a backpack is just as personal of an object because it is something Plaintiff is wearing. Due to these similarities, the court should rule the same way as they did in Fisher and hold that Professor Joe did make contact.

Thus, Professor Joe made contact.

As seen above, you can see how case illustrations begin with the facts of the case. You want to include the legally significant facts from that case that you will compare or contrast with the facts you are given. Next, you should include how the court held. Did they conclude that there was contact present for a battery or not? After the holding comes the reasoning. You want to ensure that you include why the court held the way it did.

The application will mostly stay the same as in normal IRAC; however, as you can see this paragraph includes an application of the facts not just the rule, but to the case illustration as well.