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that even if the contract could have made the settlement provisional, the
bank had not complied with the Code's requirement of prompt return of
the item and had lost its right to charge the item back to defendant's
account.\(^2\)

The conclusions of the court, operating entirely under the provisions
of the U.C.C., are patterned closely after the law developed prior to the
Code's adoption. The cash payment of negotiable paper by the drawee is
final as between the parties to the payment, and if the drawer's funds
prove insufficient the drawee cannot then collect from the payee. It is
the responsibility of the drawee to know the state of the drawer's
account and he finalizes payment at his own risk.

RICHARD STAFFORD BRAY

TORTS—MENTAL DISTRESS—RECOVERY BY THIRD PERSONS. Archibald

Plaintiff's son was seriously injured by an explosive allegedly due to
defendant's negligence in selling the son explosive materials. Plaintiff
brought an action to recover damages for emotional trauma and mental
illness, which required institutionalization as a result of viewing her son's
injuries within moments after the explosion. Summary judgment was
granted for the defendant and the plaintiff appealed.\(^1\)

The District Court of Appeals of California reversed, holding that
even though the mother did not actually witness the explosion, she
would be entitled to recover if negligence of the defendant were proved.\(^2\)
The court in Archibald, following the rationale of Dillon v. Legg,\(^3\)

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\(^1\) The Superior Court of Riverside County hearing this case in February, 1968, based
its decision on Amaya v. Home Ice, Fuel & Supply Co., 59 Cal. 2d 295, 379 P.2d 513,
29 Cal. Rptr. 33 (1963), where a mother was denied recovery for injuries sustained as
a result of emotional shock and mental disturbance received upon witnessing the
defendant's truck run over her infant child.

\(^2\) 275 Cal. App. 2d at 290, P.2d , 79 Cal. Rptr. at 723.

\(^3\) 68 Cal. 2d 728, 441 P.2d 912, 69 Cal. Rptr. 72 (1968). Dillon, decided prior to
the appeal in Archibald, overruled Amaya v. Home Ice, Fuel & Supply Co., and
became new precedent. In determining whether the defendant should reasonably

Id. at 93 n.6, 168 S.E.2d at 277 n.6.

22. Uniform Commercial Code §§ 4-212(3), 4-301 provide that in order to revoke
a settlement, the payor bank before its midnight deadline must return the item or
send written notice of dishonor or nonpayment if return is unavailable.

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its decision on Amaya v. Home Ice, Fuel & Supply Co., 59 Cal. 2d 295, 379 P.2d 513,
29 Cal. Rptr. 33 (1963), where a mother was denied recovery for injuries sustained as
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2. 275 Cal. App. 2d at 290, P.2d , 79 Cal. Rptr. at 723.

3. 68 Cal. 2d 728, 441 P.2d 912, 69 Cal. Rptr. 72 (1968). Dillon, decided prior to
the appeal in Archibald, overruled Amaya v. Home Ice, Fuel & Supply Co., and
became new precedent. In determining whether the defendant should reasonably
reasoned that the shock sustained by the mother viewing her child’s injuries immediately after the explosion was so “contemporaneous” as to satisfy the “observance” factor.4

At common law, courts were reluctant to allow recovery for injury resulting from “mental disturbance” or “emotional shock” caused by negligent conduct.5 After recognizing the validity of certain claims arising from mental distress and emotional trauma,6 the courts placed strict limitations on recovery in cases where a bystander suffered mental or emotional distress as a result of witnessing a negligently inflicted injury.7 While the impact rule, which requires actual physical injury resulting from the mental distress, was repudiated in most United States jurisdictions,8 recovery by a person who suffered injury as a result of witnessing the negligent conduct was nevertheless denied unless that person feared for his own safety or was within the zone of danger.9

Dillon court considered the following factors: (1) whether the plaintiff was located near the scene of the accident; (2) whether the shock resulted from a direct emotional impact upon the plaintiff from the contemporaneous observance of the accident; and (3) whether the plaintiff and the victim were closely related. Id. at 740-41, 441 P.2d at 920, 69 Cal. Rptr. at 80.

4. 275 Cal. App. 2d at 292; — P.2d at —, 79 Cal. Rptr. at 725.


6. See, e.g., Southern Tel. Co. v. King, 103 Ark. 160, 146 S.W. 489 (1912), where there is another element of recoverable damages upon which a cause of action might be based; Smith v. Gowdy, 196 Ky. 281, 244 S.W. 678 (1922), where the presence of another legal injury might lead to recovery; Spade v. Lynn & Boston R.R., 172 Mass. 488, 47 N.E. 88 (1898), where the emotional disturbance is accompanied by a bodily impact; Studebaker v. Pittsburgh Ry., 260 Pa. 79, 103 A. 532 (1918), where there is attending or ensuing injury to person or body of plaintiff.

7. Of course in “impact” states recovery is denied outright to one who suffers only mental injury by witnessing the negligent injury of a third person. Oblatore v. Brauner, 283 F. Supp. 761 (W.D. Mo. 1968); Duet v. Cheramie, 176 So. 2d 667 (La. Ct. App. 1965); Knaub v. Gotwalt, 422 Pa. 267, 220 A.2d 646 (1966). However, even in other states a negligent person historically has not been liable to one who witnessed the accident even though it caused severe mental distress resulting in illness or physical injury. E.g., Maury v. United States, 139 F. Supp. 532 (N.D. Cal. 1956); Koontz v. Keller, 52 Ohio App. 265, 3 N.E.2d 694 (1936); Van Hoy v. Oklahoma Coca-Cola Bottling Co., 205 Okla. 135, 235 P.2d 948 (1951).


Fear of fraudulent claims was one of the principle reasons given for the limitations placed upon such recovery, and before Dillon there were few exceptions to this rule.

The court in Dillon opened the door to increased liability. Criticizing the artificial limitations and their justifications, and setting its own standards more along the lines of reasonable foreseeability, the court established three criteria merely as guidelines to determine the degree of a defendant's foreseeability. Thus, a finding of reasonable foreseeability would be guided by the following factors: (1) whether the plaintiff was located near the scene of the accident; (2) whether the shock resulted from a direct emotional impact upon the plaintiff from the contemporaneous observance of the accident; and (3) whether the plaintiff and the victim were closely related. In recognition of its judicial importance, the decision has been criticized and praised, though its effect other than in Archibald is still speculative.

Resavage v. Davies, 199 Md. 479, 86 A.2d 879 (1952) (zone of danger); Frazee v. Western Dairy Prods., 182 Wash. 578, 47 P.2d 1037 (1935) (both); Klassa v. Milwaukee Gas Light Co., 273 Wis. 176, 77 N.W.2d 397 (1956) (both); Waube v. Warrington, 216 Wis. 603, 258 N.W. 497 (1935) (both).


12. 68 Cal. 2d at —, 441 P.2d at 917-19, 69 Cal. Rptr. at 77-79.
13. Id. at —, 441 P.2d at 919-21, 69 Cal. Rptr. at 79-81.
14. Id. at —, 441 P.2d at 921, 69 Cal. Rptr. at 81.
15. 68 Cal. 2d at 740-41, 441 P.2d at 920, 69 Cal. Rptr. at 80.


17. There are no cases prior to Archibald expressly following the minority view
Archibald has opened the door still wider in its liberal interpretation of the factors of foreseeability set forth in *Dillon*, by allowing recovery where in fact the plaintiff did not actually witness the negligently caused occurrence. While *Dillon* removed the arbitrary limitation that the plaintiff must be within the zone of danger, *Archibald* has now removed the limitation that plaintiff actually witness the occurrence caused by the negligence of the defendant.


18. In applying the factor of "direct emotional impact from sensory and contemporaneous observance of the accident" the court said that "the shock of seeing a child severely injured immediately after the tortious event may be just as profound as that experience in witnessing the accident itself. Consequently, the shock sustained by the mother herein was 'contemporaneous' with the explosion so as to satisfy the 'observance' factor." 275 Cal. App. at --, P.2d at --, 79 Cal. Rptr. at 725.


20. Archibald will undoubtedly invite comment from those who have already voiced an opinion in this area of recovery where plaintiff did not specifically witness the tortious act. Prosser, who has stated "that when a child is endangered, it is not beyond contemplation that its mother will be somewhere in the vicinity, and will suffer serious shock," has also recognized the need for even the arbitrary and somewhat unjustifiable limits to the extension of liability, including that the shock be fairly contemporaneous with the accident or peril rather than when plaintiff is informed at a later time. W. Prosser, Law of Torts, 353-54 (3rd ed. 1964). Professor Amdursky, while admitting "from the standpoint of foreseeability of mental anguish, there seems little to choose between the case where a mother sees her child negligently run down by an automobile and a case where after the accident, discovers the injured and bleeding body," has said "/r/covery should be confined to those plaintiffs who have actually witnessed the injury first hand." Amdursky, The Interest in Mental Tranquility, 13 Buffalo L. Rev. 339, 348 (1964). See also Magruder, Mental and Emotional Disturbance in the Law of Torts, 49 Harv. L. Rev. 1033 (1936).

21. Even the majority of states, which would deny recovery to the bystander in abandoning the impact rule which ultimately denied recovery to the bystander, have eased their limitation to liability in adopting the prevailing zone of danger or fear for personal safety views. See supra note 10, See also Throckmorton, Damages for Fright, 34 Harv. L. Rev. 260 (1921).
was the initial step in the removal of arbitrary limitations, though recognizing the need for some guidelines in the area of bystander recovery. Archibald, in liberally construing these guidelines, has accelerated the trend. With the possibility of New York supplying additional momentum, one might look forward to the gradual acceptance of this more equitable though challenging approach in the area of recovery for emotional and mental distress.

ROBERT L. WALKER


The defendant was tried in a Maryland state court on charges of burglary and larceny. He was acquitted of larceny, but convicted of burglary. Due to a defect in the composition of the grand and petit juries, the defendant was forced to waive the former jeopardy of larceny, and was retried and convicted on both counts. Upon appeal the Supreme Court in reversing the larceny conviction held that freedom from double jeopardy is a fundamental constitutional right that is imposed upon the states through the fourteenth amendment.

The underlying rationale of double jeopardy is that the state should not be permitted to make repeated attempts to convict an individual to embarrass him and compel him to live in a continuous state of anxiety and insecurity. Prior to adoption of the fourteenth amendment, the Supreme Court in Fox v. Ohio held that double jeopardy was largely a federal concern, and in no way applied to the states. While the Bill of Rights already contained the double-jeopardy clause, many states never-

22. See supra note 17.
1. Benton v. Maryland, 89 S.Ct. 2056 (1969). Because the grand and petit juries had been unconstitutionally selected under a section of the state constitution that demanded jurors to swear their belief in the existence of God, the Maryland Court of Appeals remanded the case to the trial court where defendant was given the “option” of serving his ten-year sentence for burglary, or demanding reindictment and a new trial.
2. U.S. Const. amend. V “... [N]or shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb...”
3. Maryland argued one cannot be placed in jeopardy by a void indictment. The Supreme Court found that only by accepting a new trial could the former indictment and sentence be set aside. There was really no choice or option involved and one cannot be forced to waive his rights of former jeopardy.