

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Monte Lowrey

No. 57 MAP 2025 · No. 57 MAP 2025 · Decided June 18, 2026

SUMMARY

This concurring statement addresses the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's dismissal of the Commonwealth's appeal in a case involving whether Pennsylvania's turn-signal statute applies to a vehicle exiting a parking lot onto a roadway. Justice Wecht agrees with the dismissal and criticizes the statute's drafting and lack of clarity, which he states creates unnecessary burdens for law enforcement, lawyers, and courts.

OPINION

Commonwealth, Aplt. v. Lowrey, M.

WECHT, DAVID N, concurring.

[J-44-2026]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MIDDLE DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, : No. 57 MAP 2025

Appellant : Appeal from the Order of the : Superior Court at No. 1297 EDA : 2024, entered on
March 12, 2025, v. : Vacating the Judgment of : Sentence of the Bucks County : Court of Common
Pleas, Criminal MONTE LOWREY, : Division, at No. CP-09-CR- : 0001289-2023, entered on
April Appellee : 3, 2024. : ARGUED: May 20, 2026

CONCURRING STATEMENT

JUSTICE WECHT FILED: June 18, 2026

In this case, appellee Monte Lowrey was charged with failure to use his vehicle's turn signal when exiting from a parking lot onto a roadway. Because the relevant statute applies only to movements that occur "upon" a roadway, rather than actions that a motorist takes when turning onto that roadway, 1 the Superior Court reversed Lowrey's judgment of sentence. The Commonwealth appeals from that decision, and I agree with today's order dismissing that appeal notwithstanding the efforts invested by many in briefing and argument. This case is an example of how poor draftsmanship and a maddening lack of clarity on the part of the General Assembly lead to a waste of judicial and law enforcement

1 See 75 Pa.C.S. § 3334(a) ("Upon a roadway no person shall turn a vehicle or move from one traffic lane to another or enter the traffic stream from a parked position unless and until the movement can be made with reasonable safety nor without giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided in this section."). resources. Absent legislative revision of semi-coherent

and often internally inconsistent² statutes, police officers, lawyers, and judges alike are forced to guess at lawmakers' meaning. Such guesswork devours time and money as debate ensues over the General Assembly's failure to convey its instructions clearly. ² Consider, for example, the fact that, while the statutory provision applies only "[u]pon a roadway", it also addresses entry into "the traffic stream from a parked position." 75 Pa.C.S. §3334(a).

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