

9/22 Intentional Tort Hypo

In Hollywood, Barbie and Ken, two big celebrities, were planning on getting married. To throw off the media, they pretended to break up, with each flying to a different part of the country. Unbeknownst to the public, however, they had secretly met up at their Southern Georgia hideaway.

One day, the two appeared at the County's Licensing Office for gun permits and marriage licenses. When Clerk #1 saw Ken's name on the paperwork for a marriage license, she started shaking with excitement, saying, "Oh my gosh. I'm your biggest fan! Is it okay if I kiss you?" Without waiting for an answer, Clerk #1 ran around the long filing counter to where Ken was standing. Before she reached him, however, Barbie grabbed her wrist, yelling "Don't you dare touch my man! I've got five bodyguards right outside this door and I do NOT share!" The clerk, enraged that Barbie had come between her and Ken, punched Barbie in the face. When Barbie let go of her wrist, she quickly went back behind the counter. Barbie stood up and for 10 seconds shrieked with outrage. She then jumped up on the counter and pushed the clerk, who fell onto the table behind her.

In the frenzy, neither Ken nor Barbie noticed clerk #2 leave the office with a copy of the marriage license. When, 5 minutes later, they realized that it was gone, they ran out the door to find her. They ultimately did so an hour later at the office of a major tabloid. When Clerk #2 refused to return the document, Ken snatched it of her hand before leaving the building.

Everyone is angry over the days events. To the delight of the tabloids, everyone sues. You are a legal reporter for Court TV and are asked to assess the (a) the causes of action each party has; (b) the defenses likely to be raised; and (c) the likelihood of success of each claim.