

Court holds that entering into a Peace Bond bars civil claim against police

November 03, 2025

On October 16, 2025, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice released its decision in **Diamond v. His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario**, [2025 ONSC 5831](#). This decision confirms that when an accused enters into a Peace Bond in exchange for the withdrawal of a criminal charge, this will bar any claim for false arrest or negligent investigation later brought by that accused. In addition, the decision highlights that an utterance made by a complainant may furnish police with reasonable and probable grounds to lay a charge.

Background

On December 2, 2017, the plaintiff's then-husband called 911 to report that the plaintiff was wielding a knife and threatening to kill herself at their home. Officers of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were dispatched to the scene. The officers attempted to speak separately to the plaintiff and her husband, but the plaintiff was non-cooperative. Meanwhile, the husband advised an officer that while the plaintiff had not touched him with the knife, she had punched him "approximately 10 times in the arms/shoulder area." The officer asked the husband to remove his jacket so that he could examine his injuries, while informing him that the OPP domestic violence policy required him to proceed with charges for a domestic assault even if the victim did not want to proceed. The husband then ceased cooperating, but the officers nonetheless arrested the plaintiff and charged her with assault.

Twenty days later, the assault charge was withdrawn with the agreement of the Crown after the plaintiff, through her criminal counsel, voluntarily entered into a Peace Bond. The plaintiff then sued the Provincial Crown for false arrest and negligent investigation, alleging that the assault charge against her should never have been laid.

The trial decision

The court dismissed the plaintiff's claim, finding that the officers had reasonable and probable grounds to charge the plaintiff with assault, and that the subsequent criminal proceeding had not terminated in the plaintiff's favour.

The court held that the officer's five-minute conversation with the plaintiff's husband, in which he stated that she had punched him, provided sufficient grounds for a charge of assault to be laid, even though officers did not attempt to interview the plaintiff after that statement was made. There was no obligation for the officers to exhaust all possible routes of investigation or inquiry to form reasonable and probable grounds, especially given that the plaintiff had declined to cooperate when they initially arrived at the residence.

Moreover, and in any event, the Court noted that the withdrawal of the charge in exchange for a Peace Bond did not constitute a resolution of the charge in the plaintiff's favour. The Court rejected the argument that the plaintiff was not advised by her criminal lawyer that entering into a Peace Bond might preclude from seeking civil redress, and that she would not have done so had she known this beforehand.

Commentary

This decision highlights the relatively low standard of proof required to form reasonable and probable grounds for a charge, which may consist solely of an utterance by a complainant. It also confirms that withdrawal of a charge in exchange for a Peace Bond is not the same as unconditional withdrawal, and will preclude a plaintiff from seeking damages for negligent investigation.

By

[Jonathan Thoburn](#), [Aidan Fishman](#)

Expertise

[Municipal Liability](#), [Disputes](#)

BLG | Canada's Law Firm

As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 800 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

blg.com

BLG Offices

Calgary

Centennial Place, East Tower
520 3rd Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2P 0R3

T 403.232.9500
F 403.266.1395

Ottawa

World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1P 1J9

T 613.237.5160
F 613.230.8842

Vancouver

1200 Waterfront Centre
200 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V7X 1T2

T 604.687.5744
F 604.687.1415

Montréal

1000 De La Gauchetière Street West
Suite 900
Montréal, QC, Canada
H3B 5H4

T 514.954.2555
F 514.879.9015

Toronto

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON, Canada
M5H 4E3

T 416.367.6000
F 416.367.6749

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to constitute legal advice, a complete statement of the law, or an opinion on any subject. No one should act upon it or refrain from acting without a thorough examination of the law after the facts of a specific situation are considered. You are urged to consult your legal adviser in cases of specific questions or concerns. BLG does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of this publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written permission of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. If this publication was sent to you by BLG and you do not wish to receive further publications from BLG, you may ask to remove your contact information from our mailing lists by emailing unsubscribe@blg.com or manage your subscription preferences at blg.com/MyPreferences. If you feel you have received this message in error please contact communications@blg.com. BLG's privacy policy for publications may be found at blg.com/en/privacy.

© 2026 Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP is an Ontario Limited Liability Partnership.