

MARTIN W. ANDREWS & LYNN ANDREWS, his wife vs. AZALEA LITTLE LEAGUE and  
STEVE COLLINS

Docket No.: 01-1368-CI-11; FJVR Reference No. 04:01-65

Verdict Date: **October** 23, 2003; Publication Date: **January** 2004

**TOPIC:** Electric Shock - Faulty Electrical Wire

**RESULT:** For the Defendants. (verdict)

**STATE:** Florida

**COUNTY:** Pinellas

**JUDGE:** Susan Schaeffer

**PLAINTIFF PROFILE:** Age: 42

Sex: Male

Occupation: Volunteer Field Maintenance Worker

**PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY:** Brad Salter, St. Petersburg

**DEFENDANT ATTORNEY:** Anthony J. Petrillo of **Luks, Santaniello**, et al., Tampa

**CAUSE OF INJURY:** On February 10, 1999, at 7:00 p.m., Plaintiff was shocked by a four-hundred and eighty volt electrical wire servicing the light poles on the senior field of Defendant Azalea Little League in St. Petersburg. Plaintiff claimed that he had no memory of the manner in which he came into contact with the wire. Plaintiff alleged that Azalea Little League was negligent for allowing a dangerous condition to exist on the premises and that the electrician, Defendant Collins, was also negligent for failing to repair the wire sooner and failing to inspect the field before energizing the wire. Defendants contended and proved at trial that they had no prior knowledge of any dangerous condition and Plaintiff himself knew of the condition and voluntarily exposed himself to the danger by grabbing the wire with his thumb and forefinger. Plaintiff's damages were also disputed.

**NATURE OF INJURY:** Burn and scarring to right hand, left forearm, and forehead; gripping problems which occasionally caused Plaintiff's hands to lock up; neuropsychological damages which included cognitive impairment, depression, anxiety, and mood swings; headaches; insomnia; skin cancer. Past medical expenses totaled \$ 48,864.20.

**PLAINTIFF EXPERT WITNESSES:** Richard A. Hoffman, M.D., Neuropsychology,  
Tampa

Wayne Cruse, M.D., Plastic Surgery, Tampa

Steven Gross, M.D., Plastic Surgery, Palm Harbor

Louis Jovell, M.D., General Medicine, St. Petersburg

Charles Pardue, Electricity, Gainesville

**DEFENDANT EXPERT WITNESSES:** Forrest Arthur, Ph.D., Injury Causation, Tampa

DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS: Defendants filed a Proposal for Settlement to Plaintiff Martin for \$ 9,000 and to Plaintiff Lynn for \$ 1,000. Plaintiffs would not consider any offer below \$ 100,000. With pain and suffering, Plaintiffs demanded approximately \$ 400,000.