

Dibley V Furter

Sale - cancellation by purchaser - Redhibitory defect - property sold with graveyard on it. Court found unfitness of prop not materially impaired. Fraudulent concealment of such latent defect. Purchaser would otherwise not have bought. Entitled to restitution in special circumstances.

Redhibitory defects are those which destroy or impair the usefulness of the thing for the purpose for which it has been sold or for which it is commonly used. Objective test is used to determine if the defect has destroyed or impaired the usefulness for everyone & not just the particular purchaser & the defect must attach to the thing sold.

Purchaser loses his claim if the thing has been destroyed through his fault, or by a 3rd party for whose actions he is liable or if he has alienated the thing.

Fact: Purchaser claimed rescission of a contract of sale of a farm which was to be used for residential purposes; on the ground that a graveyard existed on a portion of the ground. Court found at the time of the sale the seller knew of the existence of graves on the property but fraudulently concealed the latent defect from the purchaser. ✓

Held (1) The evidence did not show the usefulness of the property had been materially impaired. Purchaser had not proved the graves were redhibitory defect & is not entitled to legal relief ✓

Held (2) Regards fraud, the purchaser would not have bought the farm had he known of the graveyard & in the special circumstances of the case he was entitled to restitution. ✓