

STATE OF MAINE

v.

RYAN M. HALEY

Submitted on Briefs October 27, 2008

Decided November 13, 2008

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., and CLIFFORD, ALEXANDER, LEVY, SILVER,
MEAD, and GORMAN, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Ryan M. Haley appeals from a judgment entered in the District Court (Farmington, *Nivison, J.*) denying his motion to suppress evidence obtained during a motor vehicle stop. Haley argues that it is unreasonable for a police officer to stop a vehicle driving on a snow-covered road solely because the rear license plate is obscured by snow. The stop was reasonable because the police officer suspected a civil violation of 29-A M.R.S. § 452(4) (2007), which provides that registration plates must be plainly visible and legible. The stop was based on the specific and articulable fact that the vehicle's registration plate, because it was partially obscured by snow, violated section 452(4). This warranted an investigatory stop. *See State v. Bolduc*, 1998 ME 255, ¶¶ 5-6, 722 A.2d 44, 45 (civil violation provides adequate specific and articulable facts that, taken as a whole and together with rational inferences from those facts, reasonably warrant an investigatory stop).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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