

At 9:00 p.m. on a Sunday evening, Adam, age 18, proposed to his friend Bob, also age 18, that they dump Adam's collection of 2,000 marbles at a nearby intersection. "It'll be funny," Adam said. "When cars come by, they'll slip on the marbles and they won't be able to stop at the stop sign. The drivers won't know what happened, and they'll get really mad. We can hide nearby and watch." "That's a stupid idea," Bob said. "In the first place, this town is deserted on Sunday night. Nobody will even drive through the intersection. In the second place, I'll bet the cars just drive right over the marbles without any trouble at all. It'll be a total non-event." "Oh, I'll bet someone will come," Adam replied. "And I'll bet they'll have trouble; maybe there will even be a crash. But if you're not interested, fine. You don't have to do anything. Just give me a ride to the intersection—these bags of marbles are heavy."

At 10:00 p.m. that same night, Bob drove Adam and his bags of marbles to the intersection. Adam dumped several hundred marbles in front of each of the two stop signs at the intersection. Adam and Bob stayed for 20 minutes, waiting to see if anything happened. No one drove through the intersection, and Adam and Bob went home.

At 2:00 a.m., a woman drove through the intersection. Because of the marbles, she was unable to stop at the stop sign. Coincidentally, a man was driving through the intersection at the same time. The woman crashed into the side of the man's car. The man's eight-year-old child was sitting in the front seat without a seat belt, in violation of state law. The child was thrown from the car and killed. If the child had been properly secured with a seat belt, as required by state law, he would likely not have died.

Adam has been charged with involuntary manslaughter as defined at common law, and Bob has been charged with the same crime as an accomplice. State law does not recognize so-called "unlawful-act" involuntary manslaughter.

1. Could a jury properly find that Adam is guilty of involuntary manslaughter? Explain.
2. If a jury did find Adam guilty of involuntary manslaughter, could the jury properly find that Bob is guilty of involuntary manslaughter as an accomplice? Explain.