IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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LARRY PORCHIA,
Appellant(s),

VS.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS; STEPHEN
MASSA; NICHOLAS PAVELKA;
WILLIAMS HEADLEE; MARINA
CLARK; JASON W. DRIGGERS; AND
LVER RISK MANAGEMENT,
Respondent(s),

Case No: A-17-758321-C Docket No: 78954-COA

RECORD ON APPEAL VOLUME

4

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Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT **RTRAN** 1 2 3 4 **DISTRICT COURT** 5 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 6 7 LARRY PORCHIA, 8 Plaintiff, CASE#: A-17-758321-C 9 DEPT. XXVI VS. 10 AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONDERS, 11 Defendant. 12 13 14 BEFORE THE HONORABLE GLORIA STURMAN 15 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2019 16 RECORDER'S TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING: 17 **MOTION TO DISMISS** 18 19 **APPEARANCES:** 20 For Larry Porchia: PRO SE 21 For American Medical 22 Responders: JEFFRY M. DOROCAK, ESQ. 23 24 RECORDED BY: KERRY ESPARZA, COURT RECORDER 25

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Mr. Porchia alleges that because the City did not transport him that – or had the City transported him, he would not have needed the surgery that he subsequently received, I believe at UMC.

The City's arguments here: One of them is the same that we brought forth a few months ago which is, first of all, that the Public Duty Doctrine is a general duty owed to everyone in the public. The City does not owe a individual duty to transport Mr. Porchia just because they show up to render care. The only way around that would be a specific promise from the firefighters that they said: Okay, we're going to – we're going to transport you. Or if they did something affirmatively in terms of conduct that caused his hot flashes or pain.

Obviously there's no allegations of anything affirmatively done by Mr. Pavelka or Massa that caused what they were there to treat. And then despite the Amended Complaint, Mr. Porchia didn't really get to this point, but I'll get to it just so we can preempt the argument which is, his language is, he wouldn't have needed the surgery if Mr. Massa or Mr. Pavelka would have transported him.

So again, we're still kind of just in the transport public duty situation. If we considered that to be a claim of negligence because the care wasn't rendered correctly, well Massa – Mr. Massa and Mr. Pavelka are immune from a negligence claim under NRS Chapter 41, Section 500, subsection 5. Because they are firefighters, they are paramedics, EMTs of a city agency, they are immune from any damages, liabilities.

So like, the Public Duty Doctrine takes duty off the table for a negligence claim. This immunity will take damages off the table which

will eliminate the negligence claim as well. Because of the two – the Public Duty Doctrine and the 41.500 good samaritan, essentially, immunity for the firefighters and paramedics, EMTs throughout the State. We would ask that the Complaint be dismissed today. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you. Okay. So Mr. Porchia.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

On my behalf, my argument is plain and simple and, as it was. And I understand the Public Duty Doctrine. But to every law there's an exception, and to the Public Duty Doctrine there's an exception. It's called the Special Duty Doctrine to where if I – if, if – to the point to where I call 9-1-1 and I'm seeking to be transported to a hospital, I understand that they can be sued under the Public Duty Doctrine. But they also can be sued up under the Special Duty Doctrine to which seeks that if our response – if, if I reasonably believe that I need to be taken to a hospital, it's their duty.

The 9-1-1 call was made to dispatchers. They was [sic] aware of the situation when they got there. They already knew the, the severity of it. I'm in and out of hot flashes and they misdiagnosed me, said: I have gas. That's a job for a doctor, not an EMT. I was seeking to go to the hospital, that's why I called 9-1-1. I mean they, they are – you're correct, they are a medical – they are EMTs.

But EMTs cannot misdiagnose me and say what I have if I'm seeking – I'm telling 9-1-1; tell 'em I'm having stomach pain. They can't come to say: Oh, you guys have gas. That's a doctor's – that's a doctor's duty, a job to do.

And AMR was not the second one called. I called 9-1-1 again, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue showed up for the second time. This time they noticed how big my stomach was and AMR which do all the transporting for the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, they don't do no transporting. They call AMR, a second entity to do the transport. That's how AMR transported me.

Any time a 9-1-1 call is made, they are contracted by the state board and the hospitals to do their job, to upheld [sic] their, their obligations, up under their oath or whatever you want to call it, to take somebody to the non -- to the hospital. If I was refusing to go to the hospital I would have signed a refusal.

Obviously I'm seeking a 9-1-1 call. I'm in and out of flashes. I'm in and out of a coma. I need some medical care. Because I'm homeless, because I don't have no insurance, I'm not entitled to, to medical care? That's not right.

We've been fighting this for almost, since 2016, they keep saying the same thing over. It's going to be the same, Your Honor.

Nothing can – nothing can – I mean, I had a surgery. I, I had to -- they cut me open. They had to reconstruct my whole lower alignment. They had to staple me up with 28 staples. They had to cut out my intestines. They had to reset them.

All of this could have been prevented if they would have just took me to the hospital when I first made the 9-1-1 call. I'm not – I'm not going to make a 9-1-1 call just to be playing around with 'em.

THE COURT: Okay, so the two, two different things that

you've raised there. One, nobody's denying that you did ultimately have surgery for bowel obstruction and had – underwent very serious surgery and had a serious medical condition. So assuming – we still have to get to the whole issue of whether there's anything that the paramedics did that contributed or led to that. So your – is your position that you should be entitled to do discovery to see if it was – there's anything that having been transported earlier – because it was a matter of hours, I believe.

If having been transported earlier there would have been any change in your medical condition that you could have avoided that surgery. Is that – is it your belief that the surgery would have been avoided if the treatment had started sooner?

THE DEFENDANT: It's not just my belief. I mean, the nurse and the doctor that, that seen me. As soon as I get there I'm in and out of conscious [sic].

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

THE DEFENDANT: I have – I have the med – they said I came in a spinal position and they had, immediately they, they prepped me. They rushed me to surgery.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE DEFENDANT: If I would – if I'da been – if I'da been there sooner all this could have been prevented.

THE COURT: Okay, so -

THE DEFENDANT: My, my bow [sic].

THE COURT: So, so you believe that that the failure to transport resulted in a – the need for more serious medical care? So, I

 mean, that's kind of the ultimate point that you're – you would be trying to prove. So in order to – because I mean, as Counsel indicated, you know, they didn't do anything to cause this bowel obstruction. They did not – but the point is that, had they transported you immediately you could have gotten care sooner. And that, that care might have either avoided the surgery all together or might have made it a little bit easier to, to treat your medical condition. So that's kind of the ultimate point here.

But how do we – how do we get there in a claim against a governmental entity which has – so your position is that because there's a, a statute on EMTs that, you know, they're not supposed to make diagnoses. That's – so it's not that they made an incorrect diagnosis, that's not their job. They don't do diagnosis; they're EMTs.

THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

THE COURT: They're to render aid, transport, stabilize, those kinds of things, stabilize in the field and get you to where you can get medical care. So you're saying that there was some basic standard of EMT licensure that they breached in – instead of just making a transport and saying: You know, this is for a doctor to diagnose; I'm not a doctor, I'm just an EMT. I'm going to transport you.

That they breached their standard as EMTs, and so – or that they were improperly trained, because they didn't know that that was the – what's the proper standard for an EMT, and that somehow that then the City had failed to train its EMTs to understand and properly respond to a situation like you were in --

 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

THE COURT: -- so.

THE DEFENDANT: And even in that this the first time we went for this dismissal, the Counsel, he even admitted that they did a breach of duty. It was a negligence. They should have transported me. Now all of a sudden they shouldn't of. I mean, I don't, I don't – I'm just trying to get some clarification here too. I mean –

THE COURT: Right.

THE DEFENDANT: -- all the way around -

THE COURT: Well, because see what we have to – we have to get past the fact that as – because you're suing not a private company but a governmental entity, and they are entitled to certain immunities. As was indicated, their duties are owed to the public, they're not owed to an individual. But you're point is that, even if the duty is to the public that it's not, you know, you owe me a duty to pick me up and transport me whenever I want you to transport me; that's not what you're saying.

You're saying that when presented with a patient in an extreme condition like you were in, as EMTs, instead of making their own diagnosis and saying: We're not going to transport you, they should have said: This is a question for a doctor. I'm not a doctor, I'm going to transport this patient, and I'll leave it to a doctor to make this diagnosis.

THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

THE COURT: And so that's where they breached their duty as EMTs. That is not a duty – not a public duty, but is just specifically their obligations and how they're supposed to fill out – fill their job duties

095.

as their licensure permits.

THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

THE COURT: Okay. Okay.

THE DEFENDANT: Now under -

THE COURT: And that's 450 – 450(b)0703. 450(b)073 and

THE DEFENDANT: And NRS 12.105.

THE COURT: Okay. So just that – not, not – that the public duty doesn't shield the Public Duty Doctrine that the immune – the Civil Immunity Doctrine which would shield paramedics from their negligent acts if they're government employees; that those shields are there for them because there is a failure in their training. Instead of – it wasn't up to them to make this diagnosis. That they should not have – that's a failure in their training.

They, they – instead of just saying: Our obligation is to transport a patient who presents himself in, you know, some extreme circumstance. If it's – if the doctor gets you at the emergency room and says: Yeah, guy's got gas, goodbye; that's for the doctor to decide. It's not for the paramedic to say: We're not going to even transport you. And I mean, we still have – we still have a second problem which we're not too yet, and that's the second problem of: You had a bowel obstruction.

THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: Getting to the hospital an hour earlier is going to save you from undergoing a surgery? No, that's for a doctor to say,

but – so before we could even get to that point, we got to get past this idea of: Can you even sue a paramedic for this? I mean a – when they're employed by a public agency. Because remember, you're not suing the private company, you're suing the government agency. So there are only certain things a government agency can be sued for. Very limited. Very, very limited. Okay. Thanks.

MR. DOROCAK: Yeah, thanks, Your Honor. Obviously the City's position is that this case should be dismissed today because of – there's two immunities now.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. DOROCAK: We have the public duty which essentially is – there, there is no specific duty for Mr. Porchia here. Secondly, even if we want to strip all that away, we want to get to the, what happened? The diagnosis, non-diagnosis. These firefighters are protected under NRS 41.500. They are not civilly liable for damages. Damages is an essential part of a negligence claim. We don't need to proceed to discovery. The whole point I suspect of that section of Chapter 41 is to prevent such discovery.

So at the very least if, if this isn't dismissed today, I'm going to need to know – I'd like to know precisely what the duty is that Mr. Porchia is suggesting the City breached, because I've heard various formulations. And obviously, I've tried myself to formulate them so we can kind of figure it out.

But there just is no duty to transport. They show up, they are not obligated to take him to the hospital. They are there to render care

1	and the transport is just a general –
2	THE COURT: So if -
3	MR. DOROCAK: public duty.
4	THE COURT: if they're – if they were wrong just that –
5	they're wrong.
6	MR. DOROCAK: Right.
7	THE COURT: I mean, I mean – because we have to get past
8	the fact
9	MR. DOROCAK: What they did there was wrong, let's say.
10	THE COURT: We have to – we have to –
11	MR. DOROCAK: Yeah.
12	THE COURT: get past.
13	MR. DOROCAK: Yeah.
14	THE COURT: And this is Mr. Porchia's point –
15	MR. DOROCAK: Right.
16	THE COURT: is everybody admits he had this surgery. I
17	mean, there's no denying the fact that he had an intestinal blockage. He
18	underwent a surgery for that. It was a significant surgery. He underwent
19	significant medical care
20	MR. DOROCAK: Right.
21	THE COURT: for that. There's no denying that he had this.
22	This was – this – it wasn't caused by the City.
23	MR. DOROCAK: Right.
24	THE COURT: Nobody did anything to him. It's just he, he
25	had this medical emergency, and so there's no getting around that.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: But the point is that the firefighters, when they arrive and they are wrong. When they say: Oh, this is just gas, we're not going to transport him; it's just gas.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: That there's no liability for that, because they're not liable for being wrong.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: You can't be liable for their misdiagnosis. We were wrong about this. Mr. Porchia did have a serious medical emergency condition that, upon being transported to UMC, was discovered and treated appropriately. He recovered from his intestinal blockage after significant medical treatment. So they're not liable for just being flat out wrong in diagnosing him with gas instead of saying: Oh, we need to take this guy to a doctor and see if a doctor can say what he's got going on.

MR. DOROCAK: Correct. And I think that's what it boils down to help everybody out. Your Honor, if they get through the case, you know, for the last couple of months when it's popped up, the argument to be made – he's made, which would be well, something was diagnosed incorrectly.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. DOROCAK: Okay, well, unfortunately, you know, for him, and as Your Honor's mentioned, government agencies, government employees, especially when they're tasked with rendering care like this,

 have immunity so they can go out in the field and do their job.

And so I'll just read, for everyone's sake, what 41.500 is:

Any person employed by a firefighting agency to render emergency medical care, and obviously that's what we're talking about here, they are called out. Emergency medical care at the scene of an emergency is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission.

Everything they do is essentially immune, because they're there to render care. And they need to do whatever they essentially think they need to do by the person in rendering that care, or as a result of any act or failure to act again, reiterating act or omission.

Anything they do to provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the injured or ill person, even failure to provide for the additional treatment, which is essentially kind of what we're talking about here, does not amount to a negligence claim. Under 41.500, they're immune from that.

And all of that makes sense, because they need to be able to go out and perform the care that they are there to do. Whether something's misdiagnosed, you know, again, unfortunately for Mr. Porchia, it's just explicit in the statute, the Good Samaritan Statute, that paramedics, EMTs are immune from any act or omission that could be negligent.

There's one – I mean, for complete disclosure, obviously and I'm sure Your Honor's read the statute. There's one little area to get

through on it, but it is totally not been pled here, which would be, essentially, gross negligence. It's something reckless. Well, there's nothing reckless here. We're all at, at most we're --

THE COURT: What about failure to train? Because that – because I wasn't really clear.

MR. DOROCAK: Right, right.

THE COURT: I wasn't really clear, because I did this work myself for 20 years.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: I wasn't really clear if your allegation was -- since the paramedics themselves are protected from liability for negligence. They're just wrong. I mean, they were --

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: -- flat out wrong about him, and that's a fact we can't get around. They're just wrong about it, but they have immunity for that.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: However, the question is: Why were they wrong? Were they wrong because they were improperly trained? Were they wrong because they had not been properly trained as paramedics by the City to say: Oh, we can't tell what's going on here, we really need to transport this person. Did they somehow fail in that aspect of it, which is not so much on what they – they're immune for the actual failure to diagnose properly, but they're not – they're not there to diagnose.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: They're EMTs, they're not there to diagnose. So the question is: Did they otherwise fail in a duty they had which is what – what's your job as a paramedic --

MR. DOROCAK: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: -- to respond to emergency situations, transport patients if they're in need. So how were they trained? Were they trained in these situations to make this kind of a diagnosis? We don't – we don't know. We – it – this case is – it's very preliminary. We have no idea. So are you saying that, that because the paramedics themselves are protected from liability for their fail – their improper diagnosis, which you know –

MR. DOROCAK: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: -- we can't get around, it happened. That the City would also be immunized with respect to its supervision and training.

MR. DOROCAK: Short answer is yes. And this is actually an issue I thought about after the last hearing. I thought this would be another route, and Your Honor's obviously picked up on it. If, if he's allowed to proceed under a failure to train claim against the City that opened – that essentially negates the immunity here. Whenever an employee, firefighter, paramedic's responding and you allege well, they didn't render care. Well, we would point to the immunity here.

Well, then they go: Well, they weren't trained well enough, so that's why they didn't render the care. Well then, what's -- the immunity now is out the door, and no matter what the government agency's going

to be on the hook. So the employees are taken off the hook, but somehow the agency's still on the hook. That – I don't think that's obviously the –

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. DOROCAK: -- scheme here that the State Legislature intended. The goal was to provide immunity for the employees of the agency, and the agency itself from what they're there to do is to provide care to the public.

THE COURT: Right. And so then the, the one remaining issue then, Mr. Porchia has cited to the – to the EMT statutes.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: And so, even though there are statutes there that say: Here's what, you know, here's what paramedics are supposed to do.

MR. DOROCAK: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: Here's what their – what their standards are, here's what their licensure is. This is what they're trained to do that – because unfortunately he is suing here a governmental entity.

MR. DOROCAK: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: And because the Legislature has seen fit to protect governmental agencies, with immunity, from the mere negligence of their employees and, you know I, because we have to accept certain things as true.

MR. DOROCAK: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

THE COURT: Mr. Porchia absolutely had a serious medical

condition. The EMTs were wrong about that medical condition. They thought he had gas. They thought he didn't need transport to, to an emergency room. They refused to transport him. He continued to experience pain. He eventually got the medical care he needed. He was transported, and they discovered serious medical condition. He has an intestinal blockage, could have died.

MR. DOROCAK: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: He didn't because he got the medical care that he needed and he underwent the treatment, and it was pretty serious. Now, you know, whether, ultimately, that would have been – he would have still needed that, whether they transported him immediately or only because they didn't transport him immediately. You know, who knows. I mean, that's a – who, who even knows. I mean, I don't even know if we need to get there.

MR. DOROCAK: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: The problem is it was an emergency medical unit from a governmental entity --

MR. DOROCAK: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: -- and governmental entities are – have an immunity from the negligent acts of their employees, absent, as you said, something that we can find here.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: And this doesn't sound like gross negligence to me. It's not being pled that. I mean, if they had gone and had coffee instead of responding, maybe that would have been gross negligence,

was wrong, but, you know, is there other – are they otherwise exposed?

And that was my question about training.

And, you know, to say they were negligently trained or supervised as you – your argument being, well, it obviates the immunity.

MR. DOROCAK: Right.

THE COURT: If they're immune from doing their job then their employer's got to be immune from failing to train them.

MR. DOROCAK: Correct, that's – that would be our position if anything like that were to go forward thinking it through. I thought that was the only kind of alternative path, but it – as Your Honor mentioned, it would essentially obviate what 41.500 was meant to do, so – and it would just put agencies always on the hook, and you wouldn't need a name – the individual employees which would be an odd situation –

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. DOROCAK: -- for this type of thing. And on the paramedic statute, I think it was Chapter 450.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. DOROCAK: I, I don't think the – I couldn't find anything that was, to me, jumped out as something that he could use as a strong negligent claim. It seemed more of the, the rules and regs for paramedics. And then, you know, that's what you need for licensure, that's what you need to do your job. This is, you know, to meet all the standards, and once you are those things, essentially, the immunity under 41 attaches.

And –

THE COURT: If you're – if you are a governmental employee?

MR. DOROCAK: Correct. And there's – they got the volunteer services in there. They've got – I, I – I'm – maybe even AMR could have used it but, yeah, definitely as Your Honor said, the government can use it, so.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. Great. Thanks. So Mr. Porchia, as I said: We've been talking about this from, you know, from day one about this problem with immunity. And as I – as I told Counsel, this is – this is what I did as an attorney before I became a Judge. I defended Clark County, not the City of Las Vegas, but I defended Clark County in similar kinds of cases.

The Legislature has seen fit to protect governmental entities with immunity so that they can feel free to go out and do these jobs and not be facing liability for things – as I said, the things that we have to admit are on the face of your case, we all recognize are there. They responded to you, they thought you had gas, you didn't; you had intestinal blockage that required surgery.

And as you said, you know, if you hadn't gotten that treatment you would have died.

THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: But you ultimately did get the treatment, thank
God. It was – it was a bad surgery but you, you went through it and you
recovered. But, you know, the question is: Can you then sue these
paramedics? And not even getting to the whole question of: Would you

 still have had to had the surgery no matter what? That's not an issue. That is not our issue here. Our issue here is one thing and one thing only, and that is, because of this statute that says: Governmental entities and their employees cannot be sued for their negligent failure to perform a job duty.

I had a case once involving a gentleman who the firefighters – he was in a wheel chair, they didn't find him when they went through a fire. An apartment up above was on fire. They went through and cleared the building. They didn't find this gentleman who was in the wheelchair because he'd fallen out of his wheelchair and was down behind some boxes. And it was horrible, it was a horrible thing. They felt terrible. They're not liable for that, because they were responding to an emergency situation. And they're doing their job under emergency situations.

We have to make sure they're there for the next person who might need their care. Yes, they failed you, I understand that, and nobody is denying that. That is a fact in your case, but are they liable for that? Did they harm you in a way that there -- that is beyond just an appropriate emergency response? And that's the thing that, to me, I'm missing here.

This seems to me like they went out on a call. They got it wrong. I am not denying, they got it wrong. And they should have transported you sooner. Maybe it would have been a less serious surgery, or maybe you wouldn't have needed surgery, you know, we're not; we don't know. But the fact is, they are government employees and

they're shielded by their immunity.

That's been our problem since day one, was figuring out who it was responded and who it was you were trying to sue, because if it was the governmental EMTs, they have immunity. And we, we finally got there. We finally figured out which of the guys it was, and unfortunately they're the ones who are employed by the government. And because they're employed by the City, that statute provides them immunity.

It's, you know, it's just something that the Legislature has chosen to, to protect emergency response like this even when they're wrong. And there's no denying they were wrong, but being wrong is just being – it's negligent, and you know, they're protected from they're –

THE DEFENDANT: So under -

THE COURT: -- from liability for that.

THE DEFENDANT: So under NRS 12.105, it says that:

A violation in the performance or failure to perform obligation created by a person of duty, a failure to exercise even the slightest care in protecting someone's right, is an indifference to someone's right. I mean, they say the State and local government agencies may be sued without naming member of their governing body.

THE COURT: Right. Uh-huh.

THE DEFENDANT: I mean, especially –

THE COURT: But there's – but there is an immunity and that – the statute that you're citing does not overcome the governmental

immunity for just doing their job and that's, that's all that you're alleging they were doing here. It wasn't something unusual or something outside their scope or something they shouldn't have been doing. They were doing their job. What's their job? Responding to emergency medical calls. They get there and they misdiagnose you. They shouldn't have done that. They shouldn't have even have diagnosed you; they're not doctors. They should have taken, they should have transported you. Okay.

I understand your argument. I understand what you're saying. I get it. That, you know, they – because of them not transporting you immediately, you believe your surgery was required or necessitated or worse. I understand taking all those facts as true. I understand everything that you're saying.

But I believe, as Counsel has argued here, that the statute that provides for governmental immunity protects just this situation. And immunity means we're immune. It's like getting a vaccine for the measles. You're immune, you're not going to ever get it, and that's what this statute does. It provides immunity. It immunizes them from liability.

So I believe Counsel is correct as a matter of law. This is not even a question of any of these facts. And since we're based on facts there'd still be, you know, I would have to say: No, it's a fact question whether they did or didn't fail to diagnose him or whether they did or didn't do something.

If it were a question of fact, you would survive this, but it's not. It's strictly a question of law. Is what Mr. Porchia – taken everything Mr.

Porchia says is correct; I don't doubt you one bit. They showed up, they said: This guy's got gas. He doesn't have anything that needs treatment. In fact, you did. You needed an emergency surgery. You had the surgery. All those facts are true. That's fine.

Are they immune from liability for what they did, because it was part of their regular job duties and they're immune from just negligently doing, just being bad at their job. They are. It's an unfortunate circumstance, but that's why I said we had to figure out whether you were suing AMR, that is private entity EMTs, or were you suing government EMTs? You were suing government EMTs. They have statutory immunity. It's a matter of law. It's not even a question of fact.

All your facts can be true. I'll take all your facts as true. Are they still immune from that? Yes. And that's why I asked the, the further question: Well, okay, so just because the EMTs may be immune, what about their employer? Is there may be some way to say the employer's at fault here?

And Counsel's addressed that question as well, that it can't be a question of failure to train. That these guys were just, you know, hadn't been trained to properly recognize when it was appropriate to transport somebody. Because that falls back into the immunity standard.

They're – what they're training people for is this emergency response. Got an emergency medical call, you're immune from what happens as a result of that call no matter how bad the outcome. So it's,

 it's purely a statute. It's a question of what the Legislature has put in place. And that's, I said why we had to sort it out, figure out who you were actually suing. We've been talking about this since the beginning of the case --

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.

THE COURT: -- about governmental immunity and how that was ultimately going to be what we were going to come down to. And we finally – we finally got here. We finally got it figured out. And as a matter of law, I'm going to have to grant Counsel's motion because it has nothing to do with your facts. I take all your facts as true. That everything that you say that these guys did, I understand it and I take it as true, and that's why you ended up having the surgery you had.

THE DEFENDANT: So they can just come on scene and just do whatever they want to do, that's what you tellin' me.

THE COURT: As long as they don't – are not grossly negligent. Like I said, if they had – instead of even responding to your call, stopped and had doughnuts or something, that's gross negligence. That's, you know, a total failure to even show up is gross negligence. But everything you're saying is, they showed up, they put you on a stretcher, they checked you out. They came to the wrong conclusion about you and there is no denying.

And I understand your point being that you – they -- you feel they did that because you told them you were homeless and had no insurance.

THE DEFENDANT: Right.

 THE COURT: I understand your, your point about that, but what you sued for here is saying they misdiagnosed me, and because they misdiagnosed me, I ended up having to call somebody else. Those people took me to the hospital, and the hospital diagnosed me properly and put me through this surgery and saved my life.

I understand all of that. It's the kind of thing that the government – that the State Legislature has written an immunity for them for. You – if they are immune, then the statute you're talking about under Chapter 12, they're immune from that. They've got immunity because they are EMTs responding to an emergency service.

The Legislature has seen fit to protect all of the people who do that so that we can have that available for the next person who needs that kind of service. That's what the Legislature chose to do. It's a question of law. It's got nothing to do with your facts. I understand every fact you pled, I get it. I understand what you said they did wrong.

Even if they were totally incorrect, and because they were incorrect, you had to have that surgery and you wouldn't have otherwise, all that can be true. It doesn't change this legal issue which is this immunity issue. And we've been talking about this, you know, for all the attorneys who've been showing up here.

And you and I are the only ones who are still here after all this time, but we've been talking about this since your case started. That we had to figure out who it was you were saying was responsible for this, so we could determine if they had this immunity or not. And we're finally there and, so, unfortunately, I'm sorry it took us this long that we – took

 us this long to figure this out, under the circumstances, but we're here.

Now I've got the legal issue before – properly before the Court, and it is a purely legal issue. It's got nothing to do with your facts. I understand everything you've said factually. I'm taking it all as true. But if I take all that as true, and there's still a legal issue over here that trumps everything, I – I'm controlled by the legal issue. And in this case it's this statutory immunity that the Legislature – it's not something I'm making up. The attorney didn't make it up, it's in the statute.

The Legislature put this in place to protect all the firefighting agencies in the entire State. Because if they were subject to liability for -- if they do something – if they mess up – if they mess up as badly as they messed up with you, every single time they go out they wouldn't be able – they wouldn't be there. They wouldn't be there to do anything for anybody, so they have – the State's decided to protect them. I'm sorry but that's just a factual – it's just the facts.

THE DEFENDANT: So protect them but not correct them?

THE COURT: Unless they're grossly negligence. Unless they

are grossly negligent. Like they, you know, trying to think of what could be gross negligence in an -- in an emergency medical run.

THE DEFENDANT: I mean, I see it's negligence all the way around the board --

THE COURT: It is.

THE DEFENDANT: -- not gross, but it's negligence.

THE COURT: I understand. I understand that, but they're immune from it. They can be negligent as long as they're just merely

 negligent. They can be – they can – they can be negligent; they're immune. If they're grossly negligent – and that's, you know, I'm trying to think of, you know, I don't know, they're grossly negligent. They – I don't know, in taking you off the gurney, they dropped you on your head.

I mean, I'm trying to think what could be gross negligence in a situation like this? They're just grossly negligent. Gross negligence is just like intentionally like – yeah, they dumped you off the gurney, I guess; that'd be gross negligence. But – and that, you know, because you got dropped off the gurney you broke your leg, maybe we'd have something to talk about there, because that would be grossly negligent.

But this was just – they showed up, they misdiagnosed you, refused to transport you and because they did, you were delayed in getting the medical treatment you needed, because you needed the medical treatment. There's no getting around the facts. The facts are what they are. Were they negligent? Yes, they were, okay. Were they merely negligent? Yes.

If they're merely negligent they have immunity. It's just a choice – I haven't made that choice, the Legislature has made that choice, and I have to enforce the law they put in place. It's a law put in place by the Legislature, not – he didn't make it up, I didn't make it up, the Legislature put that law in place, and we have to live with it.

So I have to grant his motion to dismiss on that basis. So Counsel if you'll prepare that.

MR. DOROCAK: It – I will Your Honor.

THE COURT: And then that means that the hearing on the

1	30 th is vacated. So thank you, Mr. Porchia. I'm sorry it's taken this long
2	for us to reach this point. You and I have been talking about this case
3	for over a year, and we finally got here.
4	Thank you very much.
5	MR. DOROCAK: Thank you, Your Honor.
6	THE COURT: And you'll prepare that and send it over,
7	findings of fact, conclusions of do we need findings of fact, conclusion
8	– it's a motion to dismiss.
9	MR. DOROCAK: I was just going to – yeah.
10	THE COURT: Motion to dismiss. Okay. Thank you, Mr.
11	Porchia, I –
12	MR. DOROCAK: Short and simple.
13	THE COURT: you have certain rights. Mr. Porchia you
14	have the right to appeal, so keep track of the appeal time.
15	Thank you very much.
16	MR. DOROCAK: Thank Your Honor.
17	THE COURT: Okay, appreciate it, thank you.
18	[Hearing concluded at 9:28 a.m.]
19	* * * * *
20	
21	ATTEST: I do hereby certify that I have truly and correctly transcribed the
22	audio/video proceedings in the above-entitled case to the best of my ability.
23	Kirly Spang
24	Kerry Esparza
25	Court Recorder/Transcriber/

Certification of Copy and Transmittal of Record

State of Nevada County of Clark SS

Pursuant to the Court of Appeals order dated August 24, 2020, I, Steven D. Grierson, the Clerk of the Court of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the supplemental trial court record for the case referenced below. The record comprises volume four with pages numbered 665 through 693.

LARRY PORCHIA,

Plaintiff(s),

VS.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS; STEPHEN MASSA; NICHOLAS PAVELKA; MARINA CLARK; JASON W. DRIGGERS; LVER RISK MANAGEMENT,

Defendant(s),

now on file and of record in this office.

Case No: A-17-758321-C

Dept. No: XXVI

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto Set my hand and Affixed the seal of the Court at my office, Las Vegas, Nevada This 14 day of September 2020.

Steven D. Grierson, Clerk of the Court

Heather Ungermann, Deputy Clerk