

Peter Goldstein, SBN 6992
 PETER GOLDSTEIN LAW CORP
 peter@petergoldsteinlaw.com
 10161 Park Run Drive, Suite 150
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
 Telephone: (702) 474-6400
 Facsimile: (888) 400-8799

Attorney for Plaintiffs

*MARIAM BLUE, individually, and as
 Special Administrator of the Estate of
 STEPHEN BURRELL; LISA L. CARROLL on
 behalf of her wards, SMB and SFB,
 individually*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 DISTRICT OF NEVADA (LAS VEGAS)**

MARIAM BLUE, individually, and as
 Special Administrator of the Estate of
 STEPHEN BURRELL; LISA L.
 CARROLL on and behalf of her wards,
 SMB and SFB, individually,

Plaintiffs

vs.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS; WELLPATH,
 LLC F/K/A CORRECT CARE
 SOLUTIONS, LLC; LIEUTENANT
 DANIELLE DAVIS; LIEUTENANT
 MATTHEW TRIPLETT; OFFICER
 RICHARD DORADO; OFFICER
 D'ANGELO CHAPARRO-WILSON;
 OFFICER MAURICE WASHINGTON;
 SERGEANT MARCOS PARKER;
 SERGEANT CHARLES SMITH;
 SERGEANT JOHN WEDIG;
 SERGEANT J. SCHROYER;

Case No. 2:21-cv-00372-RFB-DJA

**FIRST AMENDED
 COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

- (1) DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE TO
 SERIOUS MEDICAL NEEDS IN
 VIOLATION OF THE
 FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT (42
 U.S.C. § 1983)
- (2) DEPRIVATION OF FAMILIAL
 ASSOCIATION IN VIOLATION OF
 THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT
 (42 U.S.C. § 1983)
- (3) OVER-DETENTION IN
 VIOLATION OF THE
 FOURTEENTH AMENDEMNT (42
 U.S.C. § 1983)
- (4) *MONELL* LIABILITY – FAILURE
 TO TRAIN (42 U.S.C. § 1983)

SERGEANT L. HOLMES; OFFICER A. ELIASON; OFFICER TRAVIS RAZ; OFFICER DAMON MILLETT; SERGEANT BLEDSOE; SHAWN MAPLETON; MICHAEL POPOV; VIRGILIO PADILLA; FRANCIS BODDIE-SMALL; EBONYMICHELLE D. GARNER; DEE MORGAN, aka Vicky Morgan; REGINA ELIZONDO; DOCTOR BENET; DOCTOR STILL; JAMES TENNEY; NICOLE ASHLEY THOMSON; MICHELLE FERNANDEZ; LOVELLA A. PONGAN; ASHLEY NICOLE PHILLIPS; DOES 1-35, inclusive,

Defendants.

- (5) *MONELL* LIABILITY – POLICY & CUSTOM (42 U.S.C. § 1983)
- (6) DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF § 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (29 U.S.C. § 794(a); 42 U.S.C. § 12131 et seq.)
- (7) WRONGFUL DEATH (NEVADA STATE LAW)
- (8) WRONGFUL DEATH (NEVADA STATE LAW)
- (9) NEGLECT OF A VULNERABLE PERSON (NEVADA STATE LAW)
- (10) MEDICAL MALPRACTICE (NEVADA STATE LAW)

Exhibit “A” Redacted Death Certificate

Exhibit “B” Order Appointing Special Administrator

Exhibit “C” Affidavit in Support of Medical Malpractice Claim

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff MARIAM BLUE, individually, and as the Special Administrator of the estate of STEPHEN BURRELL, along with minor Plaintiffs SMB and SFB, by their legal guardian LISA L. CARROLL, allege upon information, belief, and personal knowledge:

INTRODUCTION

1. On January 12, 2019, decedent STEPHEN BURRELL (“STEPHEN”), a twenty-four-year-old African-American man suffering from schizophrenia, bipolar

1 disorder, major depressive disorder, polysubstance dependence disorder, psychosis, and
2 other mental health and medical impairments and diagnoses, was arrested by officers from
3 the North Las Vegas Police Department on a charge of trespass not amounting to burglary
4 for sleeping in a local taco shop.

5 2. According to the arrest report, the officers decided to take STEPHEN into
6 custody, as opposed to issuing a citation, because STEPHEN had previously been arrested
7 or cited for the same offense fifteen times in two years.

8 3. Upon being arrested, STEPHEN was transported to the Las Vegas Detention
9 Center (“City Jail”), where he was booked, screened, and placed in an administrative
10 segregation—or isolation—cell.

11 4. When STEPHEN entered the City Jail on January 12, 2019, he weighed 174
12 pounds.

13 5. On March 8, 2019, still in isolation, STEPHEN was found unresponsive in
14 his cell and later pronounced dead at Sunrise Hospital.

15 6. On March 9, 2019, the Clark County Coroner conducted an autopsy and
16 determined that STEPHEN had died of starvation.

17 7. At the time of his autopsy, STEPHEN weighed 128 pounds, having lost 46
18 pounds in 56 days.

19 8. On at least two prior occasions, while STEPHEN was held at the City Jail,
20 the Court ordered him released to the custody of Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health
21 for treatment and stabilization at the Rawson Neal Psychiatric hospital, specifically
22 because he was unable to eat or engage in life-sustaining self-care.

23 9. Despite being well-aware of STEPHEN’s impairments and diagnoses,
24 Defendants, and each of them, failed to properly house, treat, monitor, and otherwise
25 protect STEPHEN during his confinement.

26 10. Instead, the Individual Defendants stood by and watched as STEPHEN
27 slowly and painfully starved to death.
28

1 18. The CITY is responsible for managing, maintaining, and controlling the Las
2 Vegas Detention Center, also known as the “City Jail,” as well as its employees and
3 agents.

4 19. The CITY, by and through its officials and supervisors at its central offices,
5 jails, facilities, and specialized units, promulgates, implements, and executes policies
6 relating to the conditions of confinement at the City Jail, including those related to
7 medical and mental health care.

8 20. The CITY’s officials and supervisors are aware of and tolerate practices by
9 subordinate employees and agents at the CITY JAIL, including those that are inconsistent
10 with formal policy. These practices, because they are widespread, long-standing, and
11 deeply embedded in the culture of the CITY’s agencies, constitute unwritten CITY
12 policies or customs.

13 21. The CITY is also responsible for the training, supervision, discipline, and
14 conduct of all CITY employees and agents, including all of the Individual Defendants in
15 this action.

16 22. The CITY is therefore liable to Plaintiffs under a theory of *respondeat*
17 *superior* for all those claims where such vicarious liability is available.

18 23. Defendant DANIELLE DAVIS (“DAVIS”) was at all relevant times a
19 Corrections Lieutenant with the City of Las Vegas Department of Public Safety and a
20 supervisor at the City Jail. DAVIS was an employee and agent of the CITY, with all the
21 duties and authority attendant to her position as a manager, supervisor, and policymaker.
22 She is sued in her individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and
23 within the scope of her duties and authority as a supervisor for the CITY.

24 24. DAVIS was a supervisor with responsibility for classification, LEST,
25 medical, PREA, and OHC. She completed the Department of Justice Death Report and
26 had personally been aware of STEPHEN’s impairments and diagnoses since at least 2016.

27 25. Defendant MATTHEW TRIPLETT (“TRIPLETT”) was at all relevant times
28 a City of Las Vegas Department of Public Safety Lieutenant and supervisor. TRIPLETT

1 was an employee and agent of the CITY, with all the duties and authority attendant to his
2 position as a manager, supervisor, and policymaker. He is sued in his individual capacity
3 for acts committed under color of state law and within the scope of his duties and authority
4 as a supervisor for the CITY.

5 26. TRIPLETT was a supervisor with responsibility for Department of Public
6 Safety internal affairs and the training of Corrections Officers.

7 27. Defendant DOES 16–20 were at all relevant times supervisors at the City
8 Jail and Department of Public Safety. DOES 16–20 were employees and agents of the
9 CITY, with all the duties and authorities attendant to their positions as managers,
10 supervisors, and policymakers. They are sued in their individual capacities for acts
11 committed under color of state law and within the scope of their duties and authorities as
12 supervisors for the CITY.

13 28. Defendants DAVIS, TRIPLETT, and DOES 16–20 are referred to
14 collectively as the “SUPERVISORY DEFENDANTS.”

15 29. Defendant OFFICER RICHARD DORADO (“DORADO”) was at all
16 relevant times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. DORADO was an employee and
17 agent of the CITY. He is sued in his individual capacity for acts committed under color of
18 state law and within the scope of his duties and authority as an officer for the CITY.

19 30. Defendant OFFICER D’ANGELO CHAPARRO-WILSON (“CHAPARRO-
20 WILSON”) was at all relevant times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. CHAPARRO-
21 WILSON was an employee and agent of the CITY. He is sued in his individual capacity
22 for acts committed under color of state law and within the scope of his duties and authority
23 as an officer for the CITY.

24 31. Defendant OFFICER MAURICE WASHINGTON (“WASHINGTON”) was
25 at all relevant times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. WASHINGTON was an
26 employee and agent of the CITY. He is sued in his individual capacity for acts committed
27 under color of state law and within the scope of his duties and authority as an officer for
28 the CITY.

1 32. Defendant SERGEANT MARCOS PARKER (“PARKER”) was at all
2 relevant times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. PARKER was an employee and agent
3 of the CITY. He is sued in his individual capacity for acts committed under color of state
4 law and within the scope of his duties and authority as an officer for the CITY.

5 33. Defendant SERGEANT CHARLES SMITH (“SMITH”) was at all relevant
6 times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. SMITH was an employee and agent of the
7 CITY. He is sued in his individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law
8 and within the scope of his duties and authority as an officer for the CITY.

9 34. Defendant SERGEANT JOHN WEDIG (“WEDIG”) was at all relevant
10 times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. WEDIG was an employee and agent of the
11 CITY. He is sued in his individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law
12 and within the scope of his duties and authority as an officer for the CITY.

13 35. Defendant SERGEANT J. SCHROYER (#797) (“SCHROYER”) was at all
14 relevant times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. SCHROYER was an employee and
15 agent of the CITY. They are sued in their individual capacity for acts committed under
16 color of state law and within the scope of their duties and authority as an officer for the
17 CITY.

18 36. Defendant SERGEANT L. HOLMES (#764) (“HOLMES”) was at all
19 relevant times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. HOLMES was an employee and agent
20 of the CITY. They are sued in their individual capacity for acts committed under color of
21 state law and within the scope of their duties and authority as an officer for the CITY.

22 37. Defendant OFFICER A. ELIASON (#1082) (“ELIASON”) was at all
23 relevant times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. ELIASON was an employee and
24 agent of the CITY. They are sued in their individual capacity for acts committed under
25 color of state law and within the scope of their duties and authority as an officer for the
26 CITY.

27 38. Defendant OFFICER TRAVIS RAZ (“RAZ”) was at all relevant times a
28 Corrections Officer at the City Jail. RAZ was an employee and agent of the CITY. He is

1 sued in his individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within the
2 scope of his duties and authority as an officer for the CITY.

3 39. Defendant OFFICER DAMON MILLETT (“MILLETT”) was at all relevant
4 times a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. MILLETT was an employee and agent of the
5 CITY. He is sued in his individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law
6 and within the scope of his duties and authority as an officer for the CITY.

7 40. Defendant SERGEANT BLEDSOE (“BLEDSOE”) was at all relevant times
8 a Corrections Officer at the City Jail. BLEDSOE was an employee and agent of the CITY.
9 They are sued in their individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and
10 within the scope of their duties and authority as an officer for the CITY.

11 41. Defendant DOES 1–15 were at all relevant times Corrections Officers at the
12 City Jail. DOES 1–15 were employees and agents of the CITY. They are sued in their
13 individual capacities for acts committed under color of state law and within the scope of
14 their duties and authorities as officers for the CITY.

15 42. Defendants DORADO, CHAPARRO-WILSON, WASHINGTON,
16 PARKER, SMITH, WEDIG, SCHROYER, HOLMES, ELIASON, RAZ, MILLETT,
17 BLEDSOE, and DOES 1–15 are referred to collectively as the “OFFICER
18 DEFENDANTS.”

19 43. Defendant WELLPATH, LLC F/K/A CORRECT CARE SOLUTIONS, LLC
20 (“WELLPATH”) is a for-profit private corporation that at all relevant times contracted
21 with the CITY to provide medical and mental health care to the individuals housed at the
22 City Jail.

23 44. WELLPATH is an agent and adjunct of the CITY and is responsible for the
24 provision of such services, as well as managing and controlling its employees and agents
25 at the City Jail.

26 45. WELLPATH, by and through its officials and supervisors, promulgates,
27 implements, and executes policies relating to the conditions of confinement at the City
28 Jail, including those related to medical and mental health care.

1 46. WELLPATH's officials and supervisors are aware of and tolerate practices
2 by subordinate employees and agents at the City Jail, including those that are inconsistent
3 with formal policy. These practices, because they are widespread, long-standing, and
4 deeply embedded in WELLPATH's culture, constitute unwritten policies or customs.

5 47. WELLPATH is also responsible for the training, supervision, discipline, and
6 conduct of all WELLPATH employees and agents, including the Medical Defendants in
7 this action.

8 48. Defendant SHAWN MAPLETON ("MAPLETON") was at all relevant times
9 an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. He is sued
10 in his individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within the scope
11 of his duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the CITY.

12 49. Defendant MICHAEL POPOV ("POPOV") was at all relevant times an
13 employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. He is sued in
14 his individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within the scope
15 of his duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the CITY.

16 50. Defendant VIRGILIO PADILLA ("PADILLA") was at all relevant times an
17 employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. They are
18 sued in their individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within
19 the scope of their duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the
20 CITY.

21 51. Defendant FRANCIS BODDIE-SMALL ("BODDIE-SMALL") was at all
22 relevant times an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City
23 Jail. They are sued in their individual capacity for acts committed under color of state
24 law and within the scope of their duties and authority as a medical provider for
25 WELLPATH and the CITY.

26 52. Defendant EBONYMICHELLE D. GARNER ("GARNER") was at all
27 relevant times an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City
28 Jail. She is sued in her individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law

1 and within the scope of her duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH
2 and the CITY.

3 53. Defendant DEE MORGAN, aka Vicky Morgan (“MORGAN”) was at all
4 relevant times an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City
5 Jail. She is sued in her individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law
6 and within the scope of her duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH
7 and the CITY.

8 54. Defendant REGINA ELIZONDO (“ELIZONDO”) was at all relevant times
9 an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. She is
10 sued in her individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within the
11 scope of her duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the CITY.

12 55. Defendant DOCTOR BENNET (“BENNET”) was at all relevant times an
13 employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. They are
14 sued in their individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within
15 the scope of their duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the
16 CITY.

17 56. Defendant DOCTOR STILL (“STILL”) was at all relevant times an
18 employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. They are
19 sued in their individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within
20 the scope of their duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the
21 CITY.

22 57. On information and belief, STILL was contacted by POPOV regarding
23 STEPHEN’s mental or physical health on February 14, 2019.

24 58. Defendant JAMES TENNEY (“TENNEY”) was at all relevant times an
25 employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. He is sued
26 in his individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within the scope
27 of his duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the CITY.
28

1 59. Defendant NICOLE ASHLEY THOMSON (“THOMSON”) was at all
2 relevant times an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City
3 Jail. She is sued in her individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law
4 and within the scope of her duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH
5 and the CITY.

6 60. Defendant MICHELLE FERNANDEZ (“FERNANDEZ”) was at all
7 relevant times an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City
8 Jail. She is sued in her individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law
9 and within the scope of her duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH
10 and the CITY.

11 61. Defendant LOVELLA A. PONGAN (“PONGAN”) was at all relevant times
12 an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. She is
13 sued in her individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within the
14 scope of her duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the CITY.

15 62. Defendant ASHLEY NICOLE PHILLIPS (“PHILLIPS”) was at all relevant
16 times an employee and agent of WELLPATH and a medical provider at the City Jail. She
17 is sued in her individual capacity for acts committed under color of state law and within
18 the scope of her duties and authority as a medical provider for WELLPATH and the CITY.

19 63. Defendant DOES 21–35 were at all relevant times employees and agents of
20 WELLPATH and medical providers at the City Jail. They are sued in their individual
21 capacities for acts committed under color of state law and within the scope of their duties
22 and authorities as medical providers for WELLPATH and the CITY.

23 64. Defendants MAPLETON, POPOV, PADILLA, BODDIE-SMALL,
24 GARNER, MORGAN, ELIZONDO, BENNET, STILL, TENNEY, THOMSON,
25 FERNANDEZ, PONGAN, PHILLIPS, and DOES 21–35 are referred to collectively as
26 the “MEDICAL DEFENDANTS.”

27 65. The true names of Does 1–35, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiffs.
28 Plaintiffs allege that Does 1–35 may be liable for the acts, omissions, and damages alleged

1 herein, and will seek leave to amend this Complaint when and if their true names and
2 capacities are ascertained.

3 66. The “SUPERVISORY DEFENDANTS,” “OFFICER DEFENDANTS” and
4 “MEDICAL DEFENDANTS” are referred to collectively as the “INDIVIDUAL
5 DEFENDANTS.”

6 7 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8 67. This civil action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983, 1985, 1986, 1988,
9 the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, § 504 of the Rehabilitation
10 Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), 29 U.S.C. § 794(a);
11 42 U.S.C. § 12131.

12 68. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, 1367,
13 and other statutory provisions.

14 69. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada
15 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because all events, incidents, and occurrences giving rise
16 to Plaintiffs’ claims took place in Clark County, Nevada.

17 18 FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

19 20 **Stephen’s detention, starvation, and death.**

21 70. On January 12, 2019, officers from the North Las Vegas Police Department
22 arrested STEPHEN on charges of trespass not amounting to burglary for sleeping in a
23 local taco shop.

24 71. Upon his arrest, the officers transported STEPHEN to the Las Vegas
25 Detention Center (“City Jail”), where he was held as a pre-trial detainee from January 12,
26 2019 until his death on March 8, 2019.

27 72. When, on January 12, 2019, STEPHEN was booked and screened at the City
28 Jail, he weighed 174 pounds.

1 73. On February 20, 2019, STEPHEN weighed 142 pounds.

2 74. On February 27, 2019, STEPHEN weighed 136.8 pounds.

3 75. When, on March 9, 2019, STEPHEN's body was examined by the Clark
4 County Coroner, he weighed 128 pounds. The Coroner determined that the primary cause
5 of STEPHEN's death was inanition, or death by starvation.

6 76. Prior to and during his detention at the City Jail, STEPHEN suffered from
7 schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major-depressive disorder, polysubstance-dependence
8 disorder, psychosis, and other mental health and medical impairments and diagnoses.

9 77. On at least two prior occasions, while STEPHEN was held at the City Jail,
10 the Court ordered STEPHEN released from jail and into the custody of Southern Nevada
11 Adult Mental Health for treatment and stabilization at the Rawson Neal Psychiatric
12 hospital, specifically because he was unable to eat or engage in life-sustaining self-care.

13 78. Thus, each and every INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT either knew or should
14 have known of STEPHEN's various diagnoses and their deleterious effect on his ability
15 to engage in self-care.

16 79. On or about January 12, 2019, the OFFICER DEFENDANTS and
17 MEDICAL DEFENDANTS, including Defendant SMITH, a Corrections Sergeant, and
18 Defendant PONGAN, a WELLPATH supervisor, placed STEPHEN in isolation rather
19 than a medical or psychiatric unit able to address his medical and mental health needs.

20 80. On information and belief, STEPHEN was never placed in a medical or
21 psychiatric unit, but remained in isolation until his death.

22 81. A couple days before February 2, 2019, unknown Corrections Officers
23 became aware that STEPHEN had stopped engaging in self-care and stopped eating his
24 food.

25 82. These Corrections Officers notified the MEDICAL DEFENDANTS,
26 including Defendant FERNANDEZ.

27 83. On or about February 2, 2019, Defendant FERNANDEZ placed STEPHEN
28 on a food log.

1 84. On February 3, 2019, Defendant POPOV discussed STEPHEN's failure to
2 engage in self-care with the attending doctor, Defendant BENNET.

3 85. On February 9, 2019, Defendants DORADO and BLEDSOE notified
4 Defendants BODDIE-SMALL, PADILLA, FERNANDEZ and THOMSON that
5 STEPHEN had not eaten since February 2, 2019.

6 86. Defendant THOMSON responded by advising STEPHEN to inform
7 unspecified Corrections Officers when he was ready to "comply" with nursing staff.

8 87. On February 13, 2019, Defendant MORGAN reviewed STEPHEN's food
9 log and noted that he had not eaten since February 9, 2019.

10 88. On February 14, 2019, Defendant POPOV evaluated STEPHEN and
11 discussed his failure to engage in self-care with Defendant STILL.

12 89. Defendant POPOV failed to take or record STEPHEN's weight.

13 90. Defendant POPOV failed to intervene in any medically meaningful way.

14 91. Instead, Defendant POPOV encouraged STEPHEN to drink milk, Gatorade,
15 and water and scheduled a follow up for three weeks later.

16 92. Defendant POPOV chose not to provide any medical care even though
17 STEPHEN had not eaten for at least two weeks and was clearly suffering from a severe
18 mental illness.

19 93. On February 15, 2019, STEPHEN told Defendant PADILLA that he wanted
20 to eat but had no appetite.

21 94. On February 20, 2019, six days after Defendant POPOV evaluated him,
22 STEPHEN weighed 142 pounds, 32 pounds less than he weighed 39 days earlier.

23 95. On February 20, 2019, Defendant TENNEY evaluated STEPHEN.

24 96. Defendant TENNEY noted: (1) STEPHEN's weight was in decline; (2)
25 STEPHEN was on a food log for insufficient self-care; (3) STEPHEN's weight loss was
26 not volitional or oppositional, but a "by-product" of psychological or developmental
27 "challenges"; (4) STEPHEN was noncommunicative, had no appreciation of the charges,
28

1 the range of possible punishments, or the court process, and he lacked the capacity to
2 communicate with his lawyer.

3 97. Defendant TENNEY concluded that STEPHEN met the requirements for a
4 “Legal 2000” and a medical release.

5 98. On February 21, 2019, Defendant GARNER reviewed STEPHEN’s food log
6 and noted that he still was not eating and continued to refuse the offered Gatorade.

7 99. On February 27, 2019, Defendant MAPLETON observed STEPHEN’s cell
8 to have dried food on the floor. Defendant MAPLETON reviewed STEPHEN’s food log
9 and noted that he still was not eating.

10 100. On February 27, 2019, seven days after Defendant TENNEY evaluated him,
11 STEPHEN weighed 136.8 pounds, 37.2 pounds less than he weighed 46 days earlier.

12 101. On March 1, 2019, more than a week after Defendant TENNEY evaluated
13 STEPHEN and concluded that his physical health was in decline because of untreated
14 mental illness, Defendant TENNEY submitted his order requesting a medical release.

15 102. On no less than four occasions after Defendant TENNEY concluded that
16 STEPHEN was undergoing non-volitional weight loss and that his mental and physical
17 condition required a medical release, the MEDICAL DEFENDANTS failed to intervene
18 and instead signed medical refusal forms on STEPHEN’s behalf.

19 103. On March 6, 2019, Defendants ELIASON, SCHROYER, and HOLMES
20 became aware that STEPHEN was unable or refusing to leave his cell in order to attend
21 court.

22 104. That same day, STEPHEN told Defendant MAPLETON, “I’m sick. I threw
23 up” and that he was feeling feverish.

24 105. Defendant MAPLETON failed to take or record STEPHEN’s weight.

25 106. Defendant MAPLETON failed to intervene in any medically meaningful
26 way.

27
28 //

1 107. Instead, Defendant MAPLETON merely noted his opinion that STEPHEN
2 was not suffering from an “acute nutritional order, but risk is increasing” and that the
3 MEDICAL DEFENDANTS should “consider” a “Legal 2000 designation this week.”

4 108. On March 7, 2019, Defendant TENNEY again evaluated STEPHEN.

5 109. Defendant TENNEY observed that STEPHEN was “in decline” and “not
6 eating.”

7 110. Defendant TENNEY requested an immediate “Legal 2000,” noting that
8 STEPHEN’s case was closed and that he was to be released that day.

9 111. That same day, STEPHEN was brought to the medical unit in a wheelchair
10 and evaluated by Defendant PHILLIPS. Defendant PHILLIPS determined that STEPHEN
11 could not be weighed because he was so weak that he could not stand and presented a fall
12 risk.

13 112. Rather than release STEPHEN to the hospital or provide medically necessary
14 mental and physical health care, Defendant PHILLIPS provided STEPHEN with a
15 sandwich, apple, and milk and sent him back to his isolation cell.

16 113. On March 7, 2019, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Defendant MORGAN
17 informed Defendant ELIZONDO that STEPHEN was due to be released to the hospital
18 on a “Legal 2000.”

19 114. That same day, at approximately 9:15 p.m., Defendant ELIZONDO spoke to
20 Defendants SMITH and WEDIG regarding STEPHEN’s release. Defendant SMITH
21 informed Defendant ELIZONDO that he knew STEPHEN was not eating and was on a
22 food log.

23 115. On March 8, 2019, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Defendant ELIZONDO
24 contacted transport officers, on information and belief Defendants RAZ and MILLETT,
25 seeking a release voucher.

26 116. Transport officers, on information and belief Defendants RAZ and
27 MILLETT, informed Defendant ELIZONDO that STEPHEN was not being released to
28 the hospital, but was being transferred to the Clark County Detention Center.

1 117. Defendant ELIZONDO concluded that there was “no need for the [Legal
2 2000].”

3 118. On March 8, 2019, at approximately 3:45 a.m., Defendant ELIZONDO was
4 called to STEPHEN’s unit for “a psych release.” Defendant ELIZONDO informed
5 Defendant PARKER that STEPHEN “would not be leaving on a [Legal 2000].”

6 119. On March 8, 2019, at approximately 4:00 a.m., Defendants CHAPARRO-
7 WILSON and WASHINGTON placed a food tray in STEPHEN’s cell.

8 120. At approximately 4:25 a.m., Defendants CHAPARRO-WILSON and
9 WASHINGTON returned to STEPHEN’s cell to discover that STEPHEN had not eaten.

10 121. The officers asked STEPHEN if he was going to eat. However, STEPHEN
11 did not respond, at which time Defendant CHAPARRO-WILSON grabbed STEPHEN’s
12 left arm—STEPHEN was unresponsive.

13 122. Defendant CHAPARRO-WILSON radioed for Defendant THOMSON.
14 Defendant PARKER was also radioed to respond to the unit.

15 123. Upon Defendant PARKER’s arrival, he and Defendant CHAPARRO-
16 WILSON entered STEPHEN’s cell but could not elicit a response from STEPHEN.

17 124. At approximately 4:27 a.m., Defendant THOMSON responded to the unit to
18 evaluate STEPHEN, but she could not obtain any vitals. She therefore requested that
19 additional medical personnel respond to STEPHEN’s unit.

20 125. At approximately 4:33 a.m., Defendant PARKER requested an ambulance.

21 126. At approximately 4:35 a.m., additional medical staff, including Defendants
22 PHILLIPS, ELIZONDO, and PONGAN, responded to the unit with medical supplies to
23 treat STEPHEN.

24 127. At approximately 4:36 a.m., STEPHEN was placed on the floor so that CPR
25 could be administered and an AED attached to STEPHEN’s chest.

26 128. At approximately 4:38 a.m., medical personnel gave STEPHEN his first
27 AED shock in an attempt to resuscitate him.
28

1 129. At approximately 4:40 a.m., Defendant PARKER contacted Lieutenant
2 Landrove.

3 130. At approximately 4:43 a.m., Las Vegas Fire Engine 8 arrived, entered the
4 cell, and placed STEPHEN on a gurney.

5 131. At approximately 4:47 a.m., AMR Unit 156 arrived and entered STEPHEN's
6 unit.

7 132. At approximately 4:52 a.m., Fire Engine 8 left the City Jail to transport
8 STEPHEN to Sunrise Hospital, followed by Defendants RAZ and MILLETT.

9 133. At approximately 5:12 a.m., STEPHEN was pronounced dead by the Sunrise
10 Hospital medical staff.

11 134. On March 9, 2019, an autopsy was conducted by the Clark County Coroner,
12 which concluded that STEPHEN died from inanition.

13 135. During STEPHEN's detention, from January 12, 2019 until his death on
14 March 8, 2019, the MEDICAL DEFENDANTS signed no fewer than eight medical
15 refusal forms on STEPHEN's behalf.

16 136. On information and belief, during STEPHEN's detention, none of the
17 INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS attempted to transfer STEPHEN from isolation to a
18 medical or psychiatric unit.

19 137. On information and belief, during STEPHEN's detention, none of the
20 INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS attempted, or sought authorization, to force-feed
21 STEPHEN.

22
23
24
25 //

26 //

27
28 //

Wellpath and the City’s ongoing and widespread custom, pattern, and practice of providing constitutionally inadequate medical and mental health care.

138. WELLPATH is the nation’s largest for-profit provider of medical and mental health care to correctional facilities, including facilities located in 37 states.¹

139. WELLPATH has attained this position, in part, through a well-publicized policy of “cost containment,” whereby WELLPATH “work[s] to create efficiencies in staffing, pharmacy, and off-site costs. . .” and markets those “efficiencies” to municipalities seeking to reduce expenditures associated with operating their facilities.²

140. As detailed in a CNN investigation published in June of 2019, five months after STEPHEN’s death, WELLPATH’s policy of “cost-containment” has caused the company’s employees and agents to “den[y] urgent emergency room transfers [and] fail[] to spot or treat serious psychiatric disorders . . .,” leading to lawsuits arising from “more than 70 deaths” over the previous five years.³

141. Based on interviews with current and former WELLPATH employees, CNN determined that the company “has repeatedly relied on inexperienced workers, offered minimal training and understaffed facilities.”⁴

142. WELLPATH employees have complained that “specialized testing, medication and treatments were often denied” and medical units were often understaffed, leading to medical errors.⁵

¹ Blake Ellis and Melanie Hicken, CNN Investigation, CNN (June 2019), <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/06/us/jail-health-care-ccs-invs/>; Correct Care Solutions RFP 18-026, Lancaster County Youth Service Center.

² See Correct Care Solutions RFP 18-026, Lancaster County Youth Service Center.

³ Blake Ellis and Melanie Hicken, CNN Investigation, CNN (June 2019), <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/06/us/jail-health-care-ccs-invs/>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

1 143. Indeed, some of the most egregious examples of inadequate medical care
2 provided by WELLPATH, and documented by CNN, occurred at the Las Vegas Detention
3 Center (“City Jail”).

4 144. In 2013, Angela Donatell entered the City Jail and was processed or screened
5 by Defendant DORADO. Donatell had previously been held at the City Jail and during
6 one of those detentions, she was transferred to the emergency room for medical problems
7 related to diabetes.⁶

8 145. Despite being aware of Donatell’s diagnosis, WELLPATH and the CITY did
9 not provide her with diabetes medication, appropriate nutrition, or treatment, but instead
10 placed her in an administrative segregation cell, where she was “monitored” by defendant
11 MAPLETON, among others.⁷

12 146. On October 1, 2013, Donatell was found unresponsive in her cell and was
13 later pronounced dead at Sunrise Hospital.⁸

14 147. In the subsequent lawsuit, medical experts determined that: (1) WELLPATH
15 and the CITY maintained inadequate levels of competent staff and equipment to assist
16 patients; (2) WELLPATH and the CITY inadequately trained their employees and agents
17 in the “recognition, treatment, and appropriate referral for hypo and hyperglycemia”; and
18 (3) defendant MAPLETON, in particular, failed to provide medically necessary treatment
19 to Donatell.⁹

20 148. In 2014, Teaira Shorter entered the City Jail. Shorter soon began vomiting,
21 experiencing frequent bowel movements, and requesting that she be taken to the
22 hospital.¹⁰

23
24
25
26 ⁶ Complaint at ¶ 15, *Donatell v. City of Las Vegas*, Case 2:15-cv-023340RFB-PAL (Doc. 81).

27 ⁷ Expert affidavit, *Donatell v. City of Las Vegas*, Case 2:15-cv-023340RFB-PAL (Doc. 81-1).

28 ⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Complaint at ¶ 20-23, *Shorter v. City of Las Vegas*, Case 2:16-cv-00971-KJD-DJA (Doc. 1).

1 149. Over the course of a week and a half, Shorter repeatedly complained to CITY
 2 and WELLPATH employees and agents that she was experiencing significant abdominal
 3 pain, constant vomiting, and diarrhea.¹¹

4 150. Despite her symptoms and requests to be hospitalized, WELLPATH and the
 5 CITY provided Shorter with little to no medical treatment and refused to transfer her to
 6 the hospital.¹²

7 151. During the period of her detention at the City Jail, Shorter lost 22 pounds.¹³

8 152. When she was finally transferred to UMC, over a week after she began
 9 complaining of symptoms, Shorter was diagnosed with appendicitis and an appendix that
 10 had burst five days earlier.¹⁴

11 153. According to a WELLPATH medical director at a jail in South Carolina,
 12 WELLPATH employees intentionally delay making emergency room transfer requests
 13 because the company pressures them to limit such transfers in order to reduce
 14 expenditures.¹⁵

15 154. In December of 2018, less than a month before STEPHEN entered the City
 16 Jail, the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, conducted an investigation into the
 17 state of medical and mental health care provided by WELLPATH at a jail in Virginia. The
 18 investigation concluded that WELLPATH and the jail “fail[ed] to provide constitutionally
 19 adequate medical and mental health care to prisoners, including by placing prisoners with
 20 serious mental illness in restrictive housing for prolonged periods. . . .”¹⁶

21
22
23
24 ¹¹ See, e.g., *Id.* at ¶ 34.

25 ¹² *Id.* ¶ 34, 40.

26 ¹³ *Id.* at ¶ 36.

27 ¹⁴ *Id.* at ¶ 42.

28 ¹⁵ Blake Ellis and Melanie Hicken, CNN Investigation, CNN (June 2019),
<https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/06/us/jail-health-care-ccs-invs/>.

¹⁶ United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Hampton Roads Investigation
 Notice (December 19, 2018) at p.1, [https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5978540-
 Hampton-Roads-DOJ-report.html](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5978540-Hampton-Roads-DOJ-report.html).

1 155. WELLPATH and the Virginia jail “fail[ed] to properly screen prisoners for
2 mental illness; provide adequate treatment planning; adequately administer medications
3 and psychotherapy; and properly treat and supervise suicidal prisoners.”¹⁷

4 156. The investigation determined that “the Jail places prisoners with mental
5 health disabilities in restrictive housing on administrative status specifically because they
6 are ‘mentally deficient,’ with no disciplinary or other reason given,” and in so doing
7 violates the ADA.¹⁸

8 157. The DOJ determined that jail officials evinced deliberate indifference to
9 prisoners’ constitutional rights to adequate medical care, in part by renewing the jail’s
10 contract with WELLPATH after becoming aware that the company “fail[ed] to provide
11 appropriate clinically necessary medical services . . . and offsite services and
12 hospitalization. . . .”¹⁹

13 158. On October 1, 2018, WELLPATH’s President, Kip Hallman, stated that
14 “[o]ver the years, as the country’s health care system has changed, we have seen more
15 and more individuals with acute mental health diagnoses and substance use disorders
16 being treated by our doctors, nurses and clinicians in correctional settings.”²⁰

17 159. While recognizing that the number of individuals receiving mental health
18 care in correctional facilities is increasing, WELLPATH and the CITY have chosen to
19 prioritize the various permutations of “cost-containment” over patient care, with
20 devastating effects for individuals in need of medical and mental health care at the City
21 Jail.

22
23
24
25 ¹⁷ *Id.* at p. 5.

26 ¹⁸ *Id.* at p. 6.

27 ¹⁹ *Id.* at p. 21.

28 ²⁰ “Correct Care Solutions and Correctional Medical Group Companies Join Forces to Deliver
Best-in-Class Healthcare,” H.I.G. Capital News (October 1, 2018),
<https://higcapital.com/news/release/correct-care-solutions-and-correctional-medical-group-companies-join-forces-to-deliver-best-in-class-healthcare>.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

**DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE TO SERIOUS MEDICAL NEEDS
IN VIOLATION OF FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT (42 U.S.C. § 1983)**

Special Administrator v. Individual Defendants

160. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege as follows:

161. Individuals held in state custody have a constitutional right to adequate medical and mental health care.

162. For pre-trial detainees, this right is secured by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

163. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS made intentional decisions regarding the conditions under which STEPHEN was confined, including, but not limited to, where STEPHEN was housed, and whether and how STEPHEN was treated, monitored, transferred, and otherwise protected during his confinement.

164. The conditions of STEPHEN's confinement put him at substantial risk of suffering serious harm.

165. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS did not take reasonably available measures to abate that risk, though reasonable state actors in the same circumstances would have appreciated the high degree of risk.

166. The consequences of the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS' conduct was obvious and their conduct caused STEPHEN's death by starvation and Plaintiffs' injuries.

167. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS' conduct amounted to reckless disregard for STEPHEN's health and safety and was therefore objectively unreasonable.

168. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS were well-aware of STEPHEN's various diagnoses, their deleterious effect on his ability to engage in self-care, and his deteriorating mental and physical health.

1 169. Despite this, the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS failed to intervene over the
2 course of 56 days with medically necessary mental and physical health care.

3 170. Thus, the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS were the direct and proximate
4 cause of STEPHEN's injuries and damages, as well as those of his estate and heirs.

5 171. Not only did the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS cause STEPEHEN's
6 injuries and damages, they callously exacerbated his pain and suffering.

7 172. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS acted willfully, wantonly, knowingly,
8 purposefully, and with reckless disregard and deliberate indifference, thereby depriving
9 STEPHEN of his clearly established rights to adequate medical and mental health care.

10 173. As a result of this unconstitutional conduct, the INDIVIDUAL
11 DEFENDANTS are liable to Plaintiffs for compensatory and punitive damages, as well
12 as attorney's fees.

13 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

14 **DEPRIVATION OF FAMILIAL ASSOCIATION**

15 **IN VIOLATION OF THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT (42 U.S.C. § 1983)**

16 ***All Plaintiffs v. Individual Defendants***

17 174. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above
18 paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege as
19 follows:
20

21 175. Parents and children have constitutionally protected liberty interests in
22 companionship and association, secured by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth
23 Amendment.

24 176. The Due Process Clause protects against unwarranted state interference in
25 these relationships and associations.

26 177. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS unlawfully, and without any legitimate
27 state interest, interfered with these familial relationships when they denied STEPHEN
28 medically necessary mental and physical health care, thereby causing his prolonged and

1 painful mental and physical deterioration, culminating in STEPHEN's death from
2 starvation.

3 178. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS' unlawful acts and omissions shock the
4 conscience of a just and fair society.

5 179. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS acted willfully, wantonly, knowingly,
6 with purpose to harm, and with reckless disregard and deliberate indifference over a
7 protracted period of 56 days, during which the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS had
8 countless opportunities to intervene and prevent STEPHEN's deterioration and death—
9 opportunities which they failed to take.

10 180. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS thereby deprived STEPHEN and
11 Plaintiffs of their clearly established rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United
12 States Constitution.

13 181. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS were the direct and proximate cause of
14 the injuries and damages suffered by each Plaintiff, including, but not limited to, the loss
15 of society, companionship, assistance, protection, affection, moral support, financial
16 support, and other services and benefits associated with these relationships.

17 182. As a result of this unconstitutional conduct, the INDIVIDUAL
18 DEFENDANTS are liable to Plaintiffs for compensatory and punitive damages, as well
19 as attorney's fees.

20
21 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

22 **OVER-DETENTION**

23 **IN VIOLATION OF THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT (42 U.S.C.**

24 **§ 1983)**

25 ***Special Administrator v. Individual Defendants***

26 183. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above
27 paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege as
28 follows:

1 184. Pre-trial detainees held in state custody have a constitutional right to be free
2 from continued detention after it is known or should be known that the detainee is entitled
3 to release.

4 185. Freedom from incarceration is the paradigmatic liberty interest protected by
5 the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

6 186. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS unlawfully interfered with this interest
7 when they halted, obstructed, or delayed STEPHEN's court-ordered release, thereby
8 preventing STEPHEN from obtaining medically necessary mental and physical health
9 care outside the City Jail.

10 187. Thus, the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS were the direct and proximate
11 cause of STEPHEN's injuries and damages, as well as those of his estate and heirs.

12 188. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS' unlawful acts and omissions shock the
13 conscience of a just and fair society.

14 189. The INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS acted willfully, wantonly, knowingly,
15 purposefully, and with reckless disregard and deliberate indifference, thereby depriving
16 STEPHEN of his clearly established rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the
17 United States Constitution.

18 190. As a result of this unconstitutional conduct, the INDIVIDUAL
19 DEFENDANTS are liable to Plaintiffs for compensatory and punitive damages, as well
20 as attorney's fees.

21 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

22 ***MONELL LIABILITY – FAILURE TO TRAIN (42 U.S.C. § 1983)***

23 ***Special Administrator v. City of Las Vegas & Wellpath***

24 191. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above
25 paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege as
26 follows:
27
28

1 192. At all relevant times, the CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and
2 agents, maintained policies and customs of failing to adequately train, investigate,
3 supervise, and discipline their agents and employees with respect to the proper treatment
4 and care of mentally ill individuals within their custody and control.

5 193. The CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents, failed to
6 adequately train, investigate, supervise, or discipline their employees in the following
7 areas:

- 8 a. Effectively screening and processing mentally ill individuals entering the City
9 Jail;
- 10 b. Properly and appropriately housing those individuals with known medical and
11 mental health needs based on those needs, including, but not limited to, initial
12 housing assignment, transfer to specialized units within the City Jail, and transfer
13 to medical or psychiatric facilities outside the City Jail;
- 14 c. Adequately treating and medicating those individuals with known medical and
15 mental health needs;
- 16 d. Adequately monitoring and protecting those individuals with known medical and
17 mental health needs, especially those with a history of failing to engage in self-
18 care;
- 19 e. Timely receiving and/or deferring to the court's and/or medical authorities'
20 orders and recommendations for medical and mental health care;
- 21 f. Efficiently coordinating and implementing the court's and/or medical
22 authorities' orders and recommendations for medical and mental health care,
23 including, but not limited to, timely complying with the court's and/or medical
24 authorities' orders and recommendations to transfer or release at-risk individuals;
- 25 g. Humanely force-feeding or otherwise providing nourishment to starving
26 individuals to ensure that such individuals receive nourishment sufficient to
27 sustain their health and their life;
- 28

1 h. Promptly contacting the appropriate medical professionals and/or emergency
2 services in cases of medical and mental health emergencies and/or promptly and
3 adequately intervening during the same.

4 194. The CITY and WELLPATH's failure to adequately train, supervise,
5 investigate, and discipline their agents and employees in the above-mentioned areas
6 resulted in the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS acting with unchecked authority and
7 discretion and deliberate indifference to the rights of mentally ill individuals within their
8 custody and control, including STEPHEN.

9 195. The CITY and WELLPATH, through their agents and officials, were well-
10 aware that their policies and customs of failing to adequately train, investigate, supervise,
11 and discipline their agents and employees would result in the constitutional violations and
12 injuries stated herein.

13 196. Despite this, the CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents,
14 made conscious choices to maintain their policies and customs of failing to adequately
15 train, investigate, supervise, and discipline their agents and employees in the above-
16 mentioned areas, for reasons peculiar to each Defendant, including, but not limited to, the
17 pursuit of profit and political expediency. These choices were made with deliberate
18 indifference to the constitutional rights of mentally ill individuals within their custody
19 and control.

20 197. Thus, the CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents, knew
21 of and consciously disregarded a known and obvious consequence of their policies and
22 customs, resulting in the constitutional violations and injuries stated herein.

23 198. This inadequate training, investigation, supervision, and discipline was the
24 direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations and injuries suffered by
25 STEPHEN, and the CITY and WELLPATH are liable to Plaintiffs for damages related to
26 the same.
27
28

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

MONELL LIABILITY – POLICY & CUSTOM (42 U.S.C. § 1983)

Special Administrator v. City of Las Vegas & Wellpath

199. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege:

200. At all times relevant times, the CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents, maintained constitutionally inadequate policies, customs, and procedures with respect to the proper treatment and care of mentally ill individuals within their custody and control, including:

- a. Ineffectively screening and processing mentally ill individuals entering the City Jail;
- b. Improperly and inappropriately housing those individuals with known medical and mental health needs, including, but not limited to, initial housing assignment, transfer to specialized units within the City Jail, and transfer to medical or psychiatric facilities outside the City Jail;
- c. Inadequately treating and medicating those individuals with known medical and mental health needs;
- d. Inadequately monitoring and protecting those individuals with known medical and mental health needs, especially those with a history of failing to engage in self-care;
- e. Failing to timely receive and/or defer to the court's and medical authorities' orders and recommendations for medical and mental health care;
- f. Failing to efficiently coordinate and implement the court's and/or medical authorities' orders and recommendations for medical and mental health care, including, but not limited to, timely complying with the court's and/or medical authorities' orders and recommendations to transfer or release at-risk individuals;

1 g. Failing to humanely force-feed or otherwise provide nourishment to starving
2 individuals to ensure that such individuals receive nourishment sufficient to
3 sustain their health and their life;

4 h. Failing to promptly contact the appropriate medical professionals and/or
5 emergency services in cases of medical and mental health emergencies and/or
6 adequately intervening during the same;

7 i. Maintaining inadequate staffing levels to address the basic medical and mental
8 health care needs of mentally ill individuals within their custody and control.

9 201. The CITY and WELLPATH's constitutionally inadequate policies, customs,
10 and procedures caused the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS to act with deliberate
11 indifference to the rights of mentally ill individuals within their custody and control,
12 including STEPHEN.

13 202. The CITY and WELLPATH, through their agents and officials, were well-
14 aware that their constitutionally inadequate policies, customs, and procedures would
15 result in the constitutional violations and injuries stated herein.

16 203. Despite this, the CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents,
17 made conscious choices to maintain their constitutionally inadequate policies and customs
18 related to the treatment of mentally ill individuals for reasons peculiar to each Defendant,
19 including, but not limited to, the pursuit of profit and political expediency. These choices
20 were made with deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of mentally ill
21 individuals within their custody and control.

22 204. Thus, the CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents, knew
23 of and consciously disregarded a known and obvious consequence of their policies and
24 customs, resulting in the constitutional violations and injuries stated herein.

25 205. These constitutionally inadequate policies, customs, and procedures were the
26 direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations and injuries suffered by
27 STEPHEN, and the CITY and WELLPATH are liable to Plaintiffs for damages related to
28 the same.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

**IN VIOLATION OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 and TITLE II
OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (“ADA”)**

Special Administrator v. City of Las Vegas & Wellpath

206. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege:

207. At all relevant times, STEPHEN was protected under the ADA and Rehabilitation Act because he suffered from and/or was diagnosed with mental impairments and disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major-depressive disorder, polysubstance-dependence disorder, and psychosis.

208. These mental impairments substantially limited STEPHEN’s major life activities, including, but not limited to, his ability to communicate with others, cope with the stress of confinement and isolation, and engage in basic, life sustaining self-care.

209. The City Jail receives federal funding to provide reasonable accommodations to disabled individuals.

210. The CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents, were aware of STEPHEN’s various diagnoses and their deleterious effect on his ability to engage in self-care, because such diagnoses and their effects were documented during STEPHEN’s prior confinements at the City Jail.

211. Additionally, agents and employees of the CITY and WELLPATH, including many of the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS, had previously evaluated and interacted with STEPHEN and treated STEPHEN’s mental impairments and disorders during his prior confinements.

212. Despite this, the CITY and WELLPATH did not modify their policies, customs, and procedures to accommodate and avoid discriminating against STEPHEN based on his protected disabilities.

1 213. The CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents, intentionally
2 and with deliberate indifference, failed to provide STEPHEN with medically necessary
3 mental and physical health care, including effective screening, necessary and previously
4 prescribed medications and nourishment, as well as medically necessary referrals,
5 transfers, and emergency interventions, knowing full-well that their acts and omissions
6 violated STEPHEN's constitutional and statutory rights.

7 214. The CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents, intentionally
8 and with deliberate indifference, housed STEPHEN in an isolation cell, as opposed to a
9 medical or psychiatric unit, where he could not be properly treated, monitored, or
10 otherwise protected, knowing full-well that their acts and omissions violated STEPHEN's
11 constitutional and statutory rights.

12 215. The CITY and WELLPATH, through their officials and agents, had ample
13 time and opportunity to accommodate STEPHEN's disabilities by providing medically
14 necessary mental and physical health care and housing STEPHEN in an appropriate unit,
15 by seeking authorization to force-feed STEPHEN, and by properly training, supervising,
16 and disciplining their agents and employees to screen and care for individuals suffering
17 from mental impairments and disorders.

18 216. The CITY and WELLPATH could have accommodated STEPHEN's
19 disabilities at little to no additional expense or risk.

20 217. By failing to accommodate STEPHEN's disabilities and discriminating
21 against STEPHEN based on the same, the CITY and WELLPATH, through their agents
22 and employees, were the direct and proximate cause of the constitutional and statutory
23 violations and injuries suffered by STEPHEN, and the CITY and WELLPATH are liable
24 to Plaintiffs for damages related to the same.

25
26 //

27 //
28

SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

WRONGFUL DEATH

IN VIOLATION OF NEVADA STATE LAW

SMB, SFB, and Mariam Blue v. All Defendants

218. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege:

219. The Defendants acted recklessly and negligently by:

- a. Failing to provide STEPHEN with medically necessary mental and physical health care, including effective screening, necessary and previously prescribed medications and nourishment, as well as medically necessary referrals, transfers, and emergency interventions;
- b. Housing STEPHEN in an isolation cell, as opposed to a medical or psychiatric unit, where he could not be properly treated, monitored, or otherwise protected;
- c. Failing to seek authorization to force-feed STEPHEN;
- d. Failing to properly train, supervise, and discipline their agents and employees to screen and care for individuals suffering from mental impairments and disorders.

220. Defendants CITY and WELLPATH are vicariously liable for the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS' reckless and negligent conduct because the INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS were state actors whose acts were committed under color of state law and within the scope of their duties and authorities as officers for the CITY.

221. The Defendants' reckless and negligent conduct was the direct and proximate cause of the injuries suffered by STEPHEN and Plaintiffs.

222. These injuries include:

- a. STEPHEN's severe mental anguish and physical pain over 56 days;
- b. STEPHEN's suffering and death;
- c. Plaintiffs' grief, sorrow, loss of support, companionship, society, comfort, consortium, and mental and physical pain and suffering;
- d. Funeral expenses.

223. SMB, SFB, and BLUE each seek all permissible damages under Nev. Rev. Stat. § 41.085, including, but not limited to, compensatory damages for STEPHEN's severe mental anguish and physical pain, STEPHEN's suffering and death, and Plaintiffs' individual grief, sorrow, loss of support, companionship, society, comfort, consortium, and mental and physical pain and suffering.

224. SMB, SFB, and BLUE also seek statutory attorney's fees and costs.

EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

WRONGFUL DEATH

IN VIOLATION OF NEVADA STATE LAW

Special Administrator v. All Defendants

225. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege:

226. The Defendants acted recklessly and negligently by:

- a. Failing to provide STEPHEN with medically necessary mental and physical health care, including effective screening, necessary and previously prescribed medications and nourishment, as well as medically necessary referrals, transfers, and emergency interventions;
- b. Housing STEPHEN in an isolation cell, as opposed to a medical or psychiatric unit, where he could not be properly treated, monitored, or otherwise protected;
- c. Failing to seek authorization to force-feed STEPHEN;
- d. Failing to properly train, supervise, and discipline their agents and employees to screen and care for individuals suffering from mental impairments and disorders.

227. The Defendants' reckless and negligent conduct was the direct and proximate cause of the injuries suffered by STEPHEN and Plaintiffs.

228. These injuries include:

- a. STEPHEN's severe mental anguish and physical pain over 56 days;
- b. STEPHEN's death;

1 c. Plaintiffs' grief, sorrow, loss of support, companionship, society, comfort,
2 consortium, and mental and physical pain and suffering;

3 d. Funeral expenses.

4 229. Defendants CITY and WELLPATH are vicariously liable for the
5 INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS' reckless and negligent conduct because the
6 INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS were state actors whose acts were committed under color
7 of state law and within the scope of their duties and authorities as officers for the CITY.

8 230. BLUE, as the Special Administrator of STEPHEN's estate, seeks all
9 permissible damages under Nev. Rev. Stat. § 41.100, including, but not limited to, funeral
10 expenses and all permissible penalties, including exemplary and punitive damages.

11 231. BLUE, as the Special Administrator of STEPHEN's estate, also seeks
12 statutory attorney's fees and costs.

13 **NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

14 **NEGLECT OF A VULNERABLE PERSON**

15 **IN VIOLATION OF NEVADA STATE LAW**

16 ***Special Administrator v. All Defendants***

17 232. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above
18 paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege:
19

20 233. At all relevant times, STEPHEN suffered from and/or was diagnosed with
21 mental impairments and disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major-
22 depressive disorder, polysubstance-dependence disorder, and psychosis, which
23 substantially limited STEPHEN's major life activities, including, but not limited to, his
24 ability to communicate with others, cope with the stress of confinement and isolation, and
25 engage in basic, life sustaining self-care

26 234. At all relevant times, STEPHEN had a medical or psychological record of
27 his mental impairments and disorders and was regarded as having such impairments and
28 disorders.

1 235. At all relevant times, the Defendants knew that STEPHEN was a vulnerable
2 person withing the meaning of Nev. Rev. Stat. § 41.1395(4)(e).

3 236. The Defendants had legal duties to provide STEPHEN, a pre-trial detainee
4 housed at the City Jail, with medically necessary mental and physical health care.

5 237. The Defendants breached their duties by failing to provide STEPHEN with
6 medically necessary care, thereby directly and proximately causing STEPHEN's pain,
7 suffering, and death.

8 238. The Defendants' breach of their duties constitutes abuse and neglect under
9 Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 41.1395(4)(a), (c).

10 239. Defendants CITY and WELLPATH are vicariously liable for the
11 INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS' reckless and negligent conduct because the
12 INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS were state actors whose acts were committed under color
13 of state law and within the scope of their duties and authorities as officers for the CITY.

14 240. BLUE, as the Special Administrator of STEPHEN's estate, seeks all
15 permissible damages under Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 41.1395, 41.085, and 41.100.

16 241. BLUE, as the Special Administrator of STEPHEN's estate, also seeks
17 statutory attorney's fees and costs.

18
19 **TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

20 **MEDICAL MALPRACTICE**

21 **IN VIOLATION OF NEVADA STATE LAW**

22 ***All Plaintiffs v. Medical Defendants***

23 242. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege every allegation contained in the above
24 paragraphs with the same force and effect as if set forth herein, and further allege:

25 243. The MEDICAL DEFENDANTS had legal duties to exercise due care in
26 providing medical care to STEPHEN.

27 244. The MEDICAL DEFENDANTS had heightened duties to use the skill,
28 prudence, and diligence commonly used by other members of the medical profession.

1 245. The MEDICAL DEFENDANTS breached their duties of care to STEPHEN
2 by failing to provide STEPHEN with medically necessary care.

3 246. As attested to by Dr. Daniel O. Laird, M.D.'s declaration, attached as Exhibit
4 "C", that breach was the direct and proximate cause of STEPHEN's pain, suffering, and
5 death.

6 247. The injuries sustained by STEPHEN occurred less than three years ago and
7 were only discovered in May of 2020.

8 248. Plaintiffs seek all permissible damages under Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 41.085 and
9 41.100.

10 249. Plaintiffs also seek statutory attorney's fees and costs.

11
12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff BLUE individually, as STEPHEN's surviving mother, and
14 as the Special Administrator of STEPHEN's estate, and Plaintiffs SMB and SFB, by their
15 legal guardian LISA L. CARROLL, request entry of judgement in their favor and against
16 All Defendants to this action, as follows:

- 17 a. For compensatory damages, including general and special damages, survival
18 damages, and wrongful death damages under federal and state law, in an amount
19 to be proven at trial;
20 b. For hedonic damages;
21 c. For funeral and burial expenses.
22 d. For medical expenses;
23 e. For punitive damages against INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS in an amount to
24 be proven at trial;
25 f. For interest;
26 g. For the reasonable costs of this action, Court costs, and attorneys' fees; and
27 h. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just, proper, and
28 appropriate.

1 Dated this 28TH day of October 2021.

2
3 PETER GOLDSTEIN LAW CORP

4
5 /s/ Peter Goldstein

6 PETER GOLDSTEIN

7 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

8 *MARIAM BLUE, inidividually and as Special*
9 *Administrator of the Estate of STEPHEN*
10 *BURRELL; LISA L. CARROLL on behalf of her*
11 *wards SMB, and SFB, individually*
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury.

Dated this 28th day of October 2021.

PETER GOLDSTEIN LAW CORP

/s/ Peter Goldstein

PETER GOLDSTEIN

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

*MARIAM BLUE, individually and as Special
Administrator of the Estate of STEPHEN
BURRELL; LISA L. CARROLL on behalf of her
wards SMB, and SFB, individually*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Clark, State of Nevada. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action; my business address is 10161 Park Run Drive, Suite 150, Las Vegas, Nevada 89145.

I hereby certify that on this 28th day of October, 2021, a true and correct copy of the following document **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** was served by electronically filing with the Court's CM/ECF electronic filing system to the following parties:

Katherine Gordon, Esq.
Natalie J. Hagen, Esq.
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP
6385 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
Tel: (702) 893-3383; Fax: (702) 893-3789
Email: Katherine.Gordon@lewisbrisbois.com
Natalie.Hagen@lewisbrisbois.com

*Attorneys for Defendants
Wellpath, LLC f/k/a Correct Care Solutions,
LLC erroneously sued as Wellpath Care fka
Correct Care Solutions, Ebony-Michelle Garner,
Shawn Mapleton, M.D., Regina Elizondo,
Frances Boddie-Small, Virgilio Padilla and
Vicky Morgan*

Bryan K. Scott, Esq.
City Attorney
John A. Curtas, Esq.
Deputy City Attorney
495 South Main Street, 6th Floor
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Tel: (702) 229-6629; Fax: (702) 386-1749
Email: jacurtas@lasvegasnevada.gov
*Attorneys for Defendants
City of Las Vegas, Michele Freeman, Robert
Straube, Lieutenant Sharon Meads, Lieutenant
Cesar Landrove, Lieutenant Venus Thompson,
Lieutenant Danielle Davis, Officer Richard
Dorado, Officer D'Angelo Chaparro-Wilson,
Officer Maurice Washington, Sgt. Marcos
Parker, Sgt. Charles Smith and Sgt. John Wedig*

Paul A. Cardinale SBN 8394
LAURIA TOKUNAGA GATES & LINN, LLP
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 240
Sacramento, CA 95833
Southern Nevada Office:
601 South Seventh Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Tel: (702) 387-8633; Fax: (702) 387-8635
Email: pcardinale@ltglaw.net
Liesa Costa at lcosta@ltglaw.net
Attorney for Defendant MICHAEL POPOV, D.O.

I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made.

By: Kris Beckhold
An Employee of Peter Goldstein Law Corp

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF NEVADA

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

CASE FILE NO. 4072101

2019005225
STATE FILE NUMBERTYPE OR
PRINT IN
PERMANENT
BLACK INK

DECEDENT

IF DEATH
OCCURRED IN
INSTITUTION SEE
HANDBOOK
REGARDING
COMPLETION OF
RESIDENCE
ITEMS

PARENTS

DISPOSITION

TRADE CALL

CERTIFIER

REGISTRAR

CAUSE OF
DEATHCONDITIONS IF
ANY WHICH
GAVE RISE TO
IMMEDIATE
CAUSE
STATING THE
UNDERLYING
CAUSE LAST

1a. DECEASED-NAME (FIRST,MIDDLE,LAST,SUFFIX) Stephen Fitzgerald BURRELL JR				2. DATE OF DEATH (Mo/Day/Year) March 08, 2019		3a. COUNTY OF DEATH Clark	
3b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH: Las Vegas		3c. HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION -Name(If not either, give street address) Sunrise Hospital Medical Center		3d. If Hosp. or Inst. Indicate DOA, OP/Emer. Rm. Inpatient(Specify) Emergency Room / Outpatient		4. SEX Male	
5. RACE (Specify) Black		6. Hispanic Origin? Specify No - Non-Hispanic		7a. AGE-Last birthday (Years) 26		7b. UNDER 1 YEAR MOS DAYS HOURS MINS	
9a. STATE OF BIRTH (If not US/CA, name country) Nevada		9b. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY United States		10. EDUCATION 12		11. MARITAL STATUS (Specify) Never Married	
13. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]		14a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give Kind of Work Done During Most of)		14b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY RESTAURANT		15. Ever in US Armed Forces? No	
15a. RESIDENCE - STATE Nevada		15b. COUNTY Clark		15c. CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION Las Vegas		15d. STREET AND NUMBER 5132 Silent Valley Ave	
16. FATHER/PARENT - NAME (First Middle Last Suffix) Stephen Fitzgerald BURRELL SR				17. MOTHER/PARENT - NAME (First Middle Last Suffix) Marian BLUE			
18a. INFORMANT- NAME (Type or Print) Marian BLUE				18b. MAILING ADDRESS (Street or R.F.D. No, City or Town, State, Zip) 5132 Silent Valley Ave Las Vegas, Nevada 89139			
19a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL, OTHER (Specify) Cremation				19b. CEMETERY OR CREMATORY - NAME Hites Crematory		19c. LOCATION City or Town State Henderson Nevada 89011	
20a. FUNERAL DIRECTOR - SIGNATURE (Or Person Acting as Such) SHEILA R WINN SIGNATURE AUTHENTICATED				20b. FUNERAL DIRECTOR LICENSE NUMBER FD926		20c. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY Clark County Funeral Services 2041 W. Bonanza Rd Las Vegas NV 89106	
TRADE CALL - NAME AND ADDRESS							
21a. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated. (Signature & Title) [Signature]				22a. On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion, death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated. (Signature & Title) CHIARA A MANCINI DO SIGNATURE AUTHENTICATED			
21b. DATE SIGNED (Mo/Day/Yr) June 08, 2019				22b. DATE SIGNED (Mo/Day/Yr) June 08, 2019			
21c. HOUR OF DEATH 05:12				22c. HOUR OF DEATH 05:12			
21d. NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or Print) [REDACTED]				22d. PRONOUNCED DEAD (Mo/Day/Yr) March 08, 2019			
22e. PRONOUNCED DEAD AT (Hour) 05:12							
23a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER (PHYSICIAN, ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, MEDICAL EXAMINER, OR CORONER) (Type or Print) Chiara A Mancini DO 1704 Pinto Lane Las Vegas, NV 89106						23b. LICENSE NUMBER DO2430	
24a. REGISTRAR (Signature) NANCY BARRY SIGNATURE AUTHENTICATED				24b. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR (Mo/Day/Yr) June 07, 2019		24c. DEATH DUE TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASE YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
25. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c).)							
PART I: (a) Inanition Interval between onset and death							
(b) DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF: Interval between onset and death							
(c) DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF: Interval between onset and death							
(d) DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF: Interval between onset and death							
PART II: OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS-Conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I. Schizophrenia						26. AUTOPSY (Specify Yes or No) Yes	
28a. ACC., SUICIDE, HOM., UNDET. OR PENDING INVEST. (Specify)		28b. DATE OF INJURY (Mo/Day/Yr)		28c. HOUR OF INJURY		28d. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED	
28e. INJURY AT WORK (Specify Yes or No)		28f. PLACE OF INJURY: At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc. (Specify)		28g. LOCATION STREET OR R.F.D. No. CITY OR TOWN STATE			

STATE REGISTRAR

VRS-Rev-20120523a

"CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE DOCUMENT ON FILE WITH THE REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS, STATE OF NEVADA." This copy was issued by the Southern Nevada Health District from State certified documents authorized by the State Board of Health pursuant to NRS 440.175.

DATE ISSUED: **FEB 18 2021**

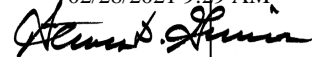
Registrar of Vital Statistics

By: *Jessica Delle*

This Copy not valid unless prepared on engraved border displaying date, seal and signature of Registrar.
SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT • P.O. Box 3902 • Las Vegas, NV 89127 • 702-759-1010 • Tax ID # 88-0151573



EXHIBIT B



CLERK OF THE COURT

OASA

JULIE RAYE, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 10967

THE GRACE LAW FIRM

8530 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 100

Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

T: (702) 478-7600

F: (702) 366-1653

efilings@TheGraceLawFirm.com

*Attorney for Petitioner***EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

In the Matter of the Estate of:

Stephen Burrell

Deceased.

Case No.: P-21-106061-E

Dept. No. 8

**ORDER APPOINTING SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR AND FOR ISSUANCE OF
SPECIAL LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

Upon submission of a verified ex parte petition for appointment of a special administrator and for issuance of special letters of administration representing as follows:

Stephen Burrell ("Decedent") died intestate on March 8, 2019 in Clark County, Nevada.

1. Decedent was a resident of Clark County, Nevada when he died.
2. Petitioner has never been convicted of a felony.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Petitioner Marian Blue is appointed as Special Administrator of the Estate of Roy Stephen Burrell and that Special Letters of Administration be issued, without bond, to Petitioner Marian Blue upon taking the oath of office, for the purpose of administering the estate in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter §140.040.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the settlement of the Decedent's lawsuit is subject to this Court's approval.

Dated this _____ day of February 2021.


DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

7B8 876 80B0 0AC8
Jessica K. Peterson
District Court Judge

Submitted by:

THE GRACE LAW FIRM

/s/ Julie Raye, Esq.

JULIE RAYE, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 10967

8530 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 100

Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

Attorney for Petitioner

EXHIBIT C

SWORN AFFIDAVIT OF DAN LAIRD, M.D.

STATE OF NEVADA)
)
COUNTY OF CLARK)

COMES NOW, DAN LAIRD, who after being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am a licensed as a medical doctor in the States of Nevada, Idaho, and Colorado. I hold an inactive medical license in the State of Washington.
2. I have approximately 25 years of experience as an anesthesiologist, primary care physician, addiction medicine physician, and pain management physician.
3. I hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology *summa cum laude* from the University of Idaho.
4. I hold a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.
5. I hold a Juris Doctor degree from the UNLV Boyd School of Law in Las Vegas and am actively licensed as an attorney in the State of Nevada.
6. I practice or have practiced in areas that are the same or similar to the malpractice issues that are at question in this case. My current medical practice focuses on primary care, pain management, and addiction medicine. Specifically, I have provided care to incarcerated patients, patients with severe psychiatric illness including schizophrenia, and have cared for patients with malnutrition. I have also cared for patients who were a threat to themselves and have participated in the L2K process for patients in Nevada.

A. I am a board-certified anesthesiologist, however, I am also trained in primary care. Since 2014, I have practiced primarily primary care medicine, urgent care medicine, pain management, and addiction medicine. Psychiatric illness is extremely prevalent among chronic pain patients. I have managed and currently manage hundreds of patients with manic depression, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders including schizophrenia, ADHD, and other psychiatric illnesses.

B. I am familiar with the standards of care for providers of healthcare, as defined by NRS 41A.017, caring for patients with cachexia, malnutrition, dehydration, and inanition.

7. My experience and education are documented in my curriculum vitae (Attached hereto as Exhibit 1.)

8. I am board-certified by the National Board of Medical Examiners.

9. I am board-certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

10. I have been retained to review and comment on the standard of care of the providers of health care involved in the care of Stephen Burrell in February and March 2019.

11. I have reviewed the available medical records of Stephen Burrell, including those from the episode(s) of care that are the subject of this lawsuit. I offer all of my opinions to a reasonable degree of medical and professional probability. These opinions support the allegations in the pending complaint.

12. The patient, Stephen Burrell, was a 26-year-old African American man who died on or around March 8, 2019, after having been incarcerated at the City of Las Vegas Detention Center and cared for by Correct Care Solutions.

13. Pursuant to the medical records, the cause of Mr. Burrell's death was "inanition."¹ However, the Death Certificate that is available does not designate whether his death was due to homicide, suicide, accident, or undetermined. The manner of death is listed by the Clark County Coroner as "natural." The reason for the inanition is not clear from the Coroner's documents, including the Coroner's Investigative Report and other medical records that I have reviewed, other than the FOIA documents obtained by Mr. Burrell's family on or around May 7, 2020.

14. On or around May 7, 2020, in response to a Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA), it appears that the City of Las Vegas produced redacted public records related to the incarceration of Stephen Burrell. I have reviewed these records as well, including medical and nursing notes from Correct Care Solutions.

15. Though redacted, the records produced by the City of Las Vegas on or around May 7, 2020, demonstrate that Mr. Burrell had significant psychiatric illness that predated his death and should have been obvious to the providers of health care

¹ Taber's Medical Dictionary, 22nd Edition, defines "inanition" as a debilitated condition caused by lack of sufficient food material essential to the body, such as in starvation or malabsorption syndrome. The condition may also be due to causes other than the food supply, such as malabsorption, or to other diseases of the gastrointestinal system that prevent absorption of food.

providing services to Mr. Burrell in the Las Vegas Detention Center. While the Coroner's documents state that Mr. Burrell had been diagnosed with schizophrenia, it was not clear that the psychiatric illness and substandard care was the cause of Mr. Burrell's inanition, to a reasonable degree of medical probability, until the FOIA records were produced in May 2020.

16. Pursuant to the medical records, Mr. Burrell had been incarcerated at the Las Vegas Detention Center for trespass and jay walking on or around January 12, 2019. The FOIA records demonstrate that Mr. Burrell had very serious psychiatric illness, most likely psychotic delusions, that resulted in his refusing to ingest fluids or food for up to a month prior to his death. While there is discussion in the FOIA records of an L2K mental health hold on March 7, 2019, the day prior to his death, the L2K was not completed.

17. Pursuant to the medical records obtained through the FOIA Request on May 7, 2020, it appears that the health care providers caring for Mr. Burrell between February 15, 2019, and March 8, 2019, took no meaningful intervention to save Mr. Burrell's life from inanition.

18. Pursuant to the medical records, Mr. Burrell was found unconscious and unresponsive in his cell on March 8, 2019, at approximately 0425 AM. A psychologist with Las Vegas Detention Center/ Correct Care Solutions wrote in his medical record on March 7, 2019,

Pt in decline. Food log not eating. Seems to operate at a concrete, poorly developed level. Cognitive challenge. Not communicative with any provider. Pt a concern for medical acuity. Request an immediate L2K.

For reasons that are not clear from the medical records, the L2K hold was not accomplished.

19. More likely than not, and to a reasonable degree of medical probability, health care personnel with the Las Vegas Detention Center and Correct Care Solutions, fell below the standard of care by failing to treat Mr. Burrell's psychiatric illness in a manner that met the standard of care.

20. More likely than not, and to a reasonable degree of medical probability, health care providers with the Las Vegas Detention Center and Correct Care Solutions, fell below the standard of care by failing to place Mr. Burrell on a Legal 2000 ("L2K") hold in med to late February 2019. A general rule of thumb in medicine and nursing is that a patient can survive 3 minutes without oxygen, 3 days without water, and 3 weeks without food. Here, a Registered Nurse with Correct Care Solutions wrote in Mr. Burrell's medical record on March 7, 2019,

Received Report from Psych RN Dee, that patient was up for release 3/7/2019, and due to him not eating/ drinking fluids for several weeks, patient was to be placed on L2K and sent to the hospital for continuity of care.

21. On a Correct Care Solutions Emergency Room/ Direct Admit Referral Request form a social worker made the following entry in Stephen Burrell's medical record on March 8, 2019,

Unresponsive- no food x 1 month, unable to obtain VS [vital signs] / CPR [Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation] started, shocked X 1.

22. There are multiple references in the medical records indicating that due to severe psychiatric illness, Mr. Burrell had not ingested adequate amounts of fluid or food for several weeks or a month prior to his death. During this time, no provider of health care with Las Vegas Detention Center or Correct Care Solutions intervened in any meaningful way to ensure that Mr. Burrell received adequate hydration and nutrition. This demonstrates an intentional disregard or deliberate indifference to Mr. Burrell's wellbeing.

- A. Due to the manner in which the medical and nursing records were kept, due to illegible writing, and due to redacted entries, for most of the providers of health care it is not possible to identify by name, the health care providers who were negligent and grossly negligent, however, these providers of health care were and are identified by their conduct. NONE of the providers of health care, as defined by NRS 41A.017, met the standard of care with regard to ensuring that Mr. Burrell received adequate hydration and nutrition.**
- B. A medical degree is not necessary to understand that human beings require food and water to survive. The egregiousness of the providers of health care in this action cannot be overstated; it is difficult to imagine that ALL of these providers failed to intercede while a fellow human being starved to death and dehydrated to death while incarcerated in a modern correctional facility.**
- C. ALL of the providers of health care who cared for Mr. Burrell during his incarceration at the Las Vegas City Jail were negligent and grossly negligent in their conduct toward Mr. Burrell. Specifically, ALL of the providers of health care who cared for Mr. Burrell failed to ensure that he received adequate hydration. ALL of the providers of health care who cared for Mr. Burrell during his incarceration fell below the standard of care and were**

grossly and egregiously negligent by failing to ensure that Mr. Burrell received adequate nutrition and hydration during his incarceration.

D. As noted in Paragraph 11 above, this Affidavit is intended to support all of the allegations in the pending Complaint as to providers or healthcare as defined by NRS 41A.017.

23. All of the medical and professional opinions expressed in this affidavit are to a reasonable degree of medical and professional probability and are based on the medical records available now; I reserve the right to change, modify, or revise my opinions if other records or additional information becomes available.

24. The medical and professional opinions expressed herein are unique to the specific factual circumstances of this particular case and therefore may not apply to other cases or factual scenarios.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct

Executed on this 9th day of August 2021.

/s/ Dan Laird
Dan Laird, MD

From: [Dan Laird](#)
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 7:40 PM
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Julie Raye](#)
Subject: Re: Merit

Warning! This message was sent from outside your organization and we are unable to verify the sender.

[Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#)

Thanks Matthew. You can affix my electronic signature. Dan

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Info <info@thegracelawfirm.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 7:14:55 PM
To: Dan Laird <dan@lairdlaw.com>
Cc: Julie Raye <julie@thegracelawfirm.com>
Subject: Re: Merit

Matthew with the grace law firm. You sent me over the proposed revised version of the declaration of merit for Stephen Burrell last Saturday

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Dan Laird <dan@lairdlaw.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 6:09:46 PM
To: Info <info@thegracelawfirm.com>
Cc: Julie Raye <julie@thegracelawfirm.com>
Subject: Re: Merit

Sorry, it's so awkward getting emails from people who don't identify themselves. Can you tell me who this is? Thanks, Dan Laird

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Info <info@thegracelawfirm.com>
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 6:17:02 PM
To: Dan Laird <dan@lairdlaw.com>
Cc: Julie Raye <julie@thegracelawfirm.com>
Subject: Re: Merit

I wanted to follow up on the status of the signed revised affidavit?

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Info
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:47:53 AM
To: Dan Laird <dan@lairdlaw.com>
Cc: Julie Raye <julie@thegracelawfirm.com>
Subject: RE: Merit

Good morning Dr. Laird

I do apologize for not responding to your email sooner. Yes, the revised Declaration is great. Please get it notarized and sent back over to me as soon as you can.

Again, thank you for everything. I will be referring a potential med mal case to you here shortly, just fyi.

The Team at

*Grace*Law

Tel: (702) 478-7600 Fax: (702) 366-1653
8530 W Charleston Blvd.
#100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117
<https://thegracelawfirm.com/>

****PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL****

The information in this electronic mail is intended for the named recipients only. It may contain privileged and confidential matters. If you receive this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this email or by contacting the sender at (702) 478-7600. Please do not disclose the contents to anyone and delete this email message and any attachments from your workstation or network system mail system immediately. Thank you.

From: Dan Laird <dan@lairdlaw.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 7, 2021 12:20 PM
To: Info <info@thegracelawfirm.com>
Subject: RE: Merit

Hello,
Here are the proposed changes. Let me know if you need to discuss further.
I will get it notarized on Monday.
Thanks
Dan Laird

From: Info <info@thegracelawfirm.com>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Dan Laird <dan@lairdlaw.com>
Subject: Merit

The Team at



Tel: (702) 478-7600 Fax: (702) 366-1653
8530 W Charleston Blvd.
#100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117
<https://thegracelawfirm.com/>

****PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL****

The information in this electronic mail is intended for the named recipients only. It may contain privileged and confidential matters. If you receive this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this email or by contacting the sender at (702) 478-7600. Please do not disclose the contents to anyone and delete this email message and any attachments from your workstation or network system mail system immediately. Thank you.