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Illinois State Bar Association High School Mock Trial Invitational 2024 Mock Trial Case

Parker Keating v. Charlie Spector

None of the characters in this case are real. Any similarity between these characters and living people is coincidental and unintentional.

This problem was prepared and created by the Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public.

Special thanks to ISBA staff and the ISBA's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public, and the Mock Trial Coordinator for their work in preparing the problem.

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WITNESSES

Plaintiff's Witnesses	Defendant's Witnesses	
Parker Keating, Plaintiff, Front Seat Passenger	Charlie Spector, Defendant, Driver	
Sam Haller, Gas Station Owner	Jessie Finch, Back Seat Passenger	
Professor Cameron Goodman, Crash Analyst	Officer Kit Mason, Lincoln County Police	

CASE DOCUMENTS

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

- 1. Statement of the Case
- 2. Complaint and Answer
- 3. Pre-Trial Order
- 4. Jury Instructions
- 5. Applicable Statutes
- 6. Affidavits
- 7. Exhibits

EXHIBITS

- 1. 911 Call Transcripts
 - a. Charlie Spector's 911 Call
 - b. Wonnie Jones' 911 Call
- 2. Illinois Traffic Crash Report
- 3. Veterans Parkway Photographs
 - a. Street View
 - b. Topical View
- 4. Cellular Phone Photograph
- 5. Lincoln County Police Report
- 6. Photograph of Honda Civic Dashboard
- 7. Photograph of NoDoz Pills Bottle
- 8. Photograph of Funnies THC Gummies package
- 9. Certified copy of conviction record
- 10. CRIES report
- 11. Scott's Law Poster
- 12. Photograph of City of Lincolnville Public Works vehicle
- 13. Photograph of Sawtooth Gas Station (Outside)
- 14. Photograph of Sawtooth Gas Station (Inside)
- 15. Photograph of Red Bull Energy Drink Can

Statement of the Case

In the early morning hours of June 10, 2023, three teenagers, Charlie Spector, Jessie Finch, and Parker Keating, were on their way home from visiting Illinois colleges when their vehicle struck a City of Lincolnville Public Works vehicle that was parked on the right side of the road. Plaintiff, Parker Keating, was injured and has sued the driver of the car, Defendant, Charlie Spector, for several claims arising out of the crash.

The ISBA LRE Mock Trial Subcommittee hopes that this Mock Trial case raises awareness about the dangers of distracted driving to all of the students, coaches, and parents who participate in any way in our program this year. Specifically, we hope that this problem raises awareness of Illinois' laws on distracted driving and Scott's Law (625 ILCS 5/11-907 et. seq.), which is also commonly referred to as the slow down and/or move over law.

PARKER KEATING,)
)
Plaintiff,)
v.) 2023-LA-1818
CHARLIE SPECTOR,	
	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendant.)

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Plaintiff, PARKER KEATING, by and through counsel, and for Plaintiff's Complaint against Defendant, CHARLIE SPECTOR, states as follows:

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff Parker Keating is an adult resident of the City of Lincolnville, Lincoln County, Illinois.
- 2. Defendant Charlie Spector is an adult resident of the City of Lincolnville, Lincoln County, Illinois.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. This is an action predicated upon negligence and negligence *per se*.
- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action and personal jurisdiction over the Defendant Charlie Spector.
- 5. Venue of this action in this judicial district is proper because Defendant Charlie Spector is a resident of Lincoln County and the acts and/ or omissions that form the basis for this Complaint occurred in Lincoln County, Illinois.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 6. In the early morning of June 10, 2023, Plaintiff Parker Keating was a front seat passenger in a 2009 Honda Civic driven and owned by Defendant Charlie Spector. Jessie Finch was in the back seat of the 2009 Honda Civic.
- 7. At or about 4:00 a.m., June 10, 2023, the Honda Civic was traveling northbound on Veterans Parkway, a four-lane highway, in Lincolnville, Illinois. This roadway curves and narrows at all times relevant herein and was also slippery from dew.
- 8. As Defendant Charlie Spector drove northbound, Defendant Charlie Spector saw a stopped Lincolnville Public Works vehicle on the right side of the road with its amber oscillating lights (warning lights) activated. The Public Works vehicle was sitting off on the right shoulder of Veterans Parkway conducting routine maintenance (removing a tree branch) on an electrical substation.
- 9. Defendant Charlie Spector negligently drove into the stopped Lincolnville Public Works vehicle when its warning lights were activated.
- 10. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant Charlie Spector's negligent driving, Plaintiff Parker Keating was severely injured.
- 11. Just prior to, and at the time that Defendant Charlie Spector drove into the Lincolnville Public Works vehicle, Defendant Charlie Spector was conversing on a cell phone, in speakerphone mode, while also driving.
- 12. Just prior to, and at the time that Defendant Charlie Spector drove into the Lincolnville Public Works vehicle, Defendant Charlie Spector knew, or should have known, Defendant Charlie Spector lacked sleep, was fatigued and tired. In lieu of responsibly pulling over, Defendant Charlie Spector drank Red Bull energy drink and took NoDoz caffeine pills.

- 13. Just prior to, and at the time Defendant Charlie Spector approached the location of the Lincolnville Public Works vehicle, Defendant Charlie Spector failed to move over or adjust speed under the given road conditions.
- 14. Plaintiff Parker Keating was taken to the Lincolnville Community Hospital for evaluation and treatment of serious injuries to Plaintiff Parker Keating's back, neck, right arm, right hand, and right ankle.
- 15. The physical injuries suffered by Plaintiff Parker Keating were severe and debilitating and were a direct and proximate result of Defendant Charlie Spector's negligence.
- 16. Plaintiff Parker Keating's damages include, but are not limited to, physical injuries, pain and suffering, future earnings, economic injuries, medical expenses, future impairment, future pain and suffering, and mental and emotional distress.

COUNT 1 - NEGLIGENCE PER SE

- 17. Plaintiff Parker Keating hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 16 of Plaintiff's Complaint as and for paragraph 17 of Plaintiff's Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 18. There was in force and effect at the time of the accident Section 12-610.2(b) of the Illinois Vehicle Code that prohibited a driver operating a motor vehicle while using an electronic device.
- 19. Defendant Charlie Spector violated 625 ILCS 5/12-610.2(b) by operating a motor vehicle while using an electronic device as described in this Complaint.
- 20. At the time that Defendant Charlie Spector was driving down Veterans Parkway as alleged in this Complaint, there was in force and effect a law, known commonly as Scott's Law, being Section 11-907(c) of the Illinois Vehicle Code, that required drivers to slow down or move

over one lane, if possible, when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle, or any vehicle with flashing lights.

- 21. Defendant Charlie Spector violated 625 ILCS 5/11-907(c) by failing to move over and/or slow down when approaching an emergency vehicle when its amber or yellow warning lights were activated as described in this Complaint.
- 22. At the time that Defendant Charlie Spector was driving down Veterans Parkway as alleged herein, there was in force and effect Section 11-601(a) of the Illinois Vehicle Code that required Defendant Charlie Spector to operate the Honda Civic described herein with due care.
- 23. Defendant Charlie Spector violated 625 ILCS 5/11-601(a) by failing to operate Defendant's motor vehicle at a reasonable speed under the traffic, roadway, and conditions at the time in question.
- 24. Defendant Charlie Spector's violations of any and all of these three statutes constituted negligence *per se* under Illinois law.
- 25. Each of the violations alleged in paragraphs 19, 21, and 23 above were the actual and proximate cause of Plaintiff Parker Keating's damages.

COUNT 2 - GENERAL NEGLIGENCE

- 26. Plaintiff Parker Keating hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 16 of Plaintiff's Complaint as and for paragraph 26 of Plaintiff's Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 27. Defendant Charlie Spector owed Plaintiff Parker Keating a duty of care to operate Defendant's motor vehicle in a reasonably prudent manner.

- 28. Defendant Charlie Spector breached Defendant's duty to Plaintiff Parker Keating by failing to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances and by failing to operate Defendant's motor vehicle in a reasonably prudent manner.
- 29. Defendant Charlie Spector breached Defendant's duty to Plaintiff Parker Keating in one or more of the following ways:
 - A. By failing to operate Defendant's vehicle at a reasonable and proper rate of speed in light of the existing traffic, roadway, and conditions;
 - B. By failing to move over and/or slow down, failing to pay proper attention by holding and/ or communicating on a cell phone while on speakerphone mode while driving, thereby driving carelessly;
 - C. By failing to avoid a collision with the Lincolnville Public Works vehicle when, in the exercise of reasonable care, Defendant Charlie Spector could have done so;
 - D. By operating, and continuing to operate, Defendant's motor vehicle knowing Defendant lacked sleep, was fatigued, and was tired without pulling over; and
 - E. By operating Defendant's motor vehicle with disregard for the safety of the Plaintiff Parker Keating.
- 30. Each of the breaches of duty alleged in paragraph 29 above and all of these breaches collectively were the actual and proximate cause of Plaintiff's damages.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff Parker Keating respectfully requests that this honorable Court enter a judgment for Plaintiff Parker Keating and against Defendant Charlie Spector for compensatory damages in an amount in excess of \$50,000, including but not limited to: 1) past,

present, and future medical expenses, 2) past, present, and future pain and suffering, 3) past, present, and future economic damages, 4) permanent impairment, 5) emotional distress, 6) loss of enjoyment of life, 7) all general and special damages, and 8) any other relief this Court deems just and proper and to which Plaintiff Parker Keating is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

Overstreet Theis

One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

PARKER KEATING,)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.) 202	23-LA-1818
CHARLIE SPECTOR,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

PLAINTIFF'S RULE 222 AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says:

- 1. I am an adult resident of Lincoln County, Illinois, and under no legal disability.
- 2. I am the attorney for the Plaintiff in the above-captioned lawsuit.
- 3. That the total money damages sought by Plaintiff in the above-captioned lawsuit, exclusive of attorneys' fees, interest, and costs, exceeds \$50,000.00.

Further Affiant sayeth naught.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>Overstreet Theis</u>
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

Signed and sworn before me on September 9, 2023.

Scottie Pippout



PARKER KEATING,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.) 2023-LA-1818	
CHARLIE SPECTOR,)	
) JURY TRIAL DI	EMANDED
Defendant.)	

DEFENDANT'S ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

NOW COMES Defendant Charlie Spector, by and through undersigned counsel, and for Defendant's Answer and Affirmative Defenses to the Complaint filed by Plaintiff Parker Keating states as follows:

ANSWER

- 1. Admitted.
- 2. Admitted.
- 3. This paragraph is an allegation of law and not of fact to which no answer is required.
- 4. This paragraph is an allegation of law and not of fact to which no answer is required.
- 5. This paragraph is an allegation of law and not of fact to which no answer is required.
- 6. Admitted.
- 7. Admit the first sentence of paragraph 7. Defendant lacks knowledge of the matter sufficient to form a belief as to admit or deny the allegations contained in the second sentence of paragraph 7.
- 8. Deny the first sentence of paragraph 8. Defendant lacks knowledge of the matter sufficient to form a belief as to admit or deny the allegations contained in the second sentence of paragraph 8.
 - 9. Denied.

- 10. Denied.
- 11. Denied.
- 12. Denied.
- 13. Denied.
- 14. Defendant lacks knowledge of the matter sufficient to form a belief as to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph 14.
 - 15. Denied.
- 16. Defendant lacks knowledge of the matter sufficient to form a belief as to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph 16.
- 17. Defendant hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 16 of Defendant's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint as and for paragraph 17 of Defendant's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
 - 18. This paragraph is an allegation of law and not of fact to which no answer is required.
 - 19. Denied.
 - 20. This paragraph is an allegation of law and not of fact to which no answer is required.
 - 21. Denied.
- 22. This paragraph is an allegation of law and not of fact to which no answer is required.
 - 23. Denied.
 - 24. Denied.
 - 25. Denied.
- 26. Defendant hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 16 of Defendant's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint as and for paragraph 26 of Defendant's Answer to

Plaintiff's Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

- 27. Admit.
- 28. Denied.
- 29. Denied and Deny paragraphs (A) through (E) of this paragraph 29.
- 30. Denied.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Charlie Spector prays that this Court enter judgment in Defendant's favor on Count II of Plaintiff's Complaint, award nothing to Plaintiff Parker Keating, and award Defendant Charlie Spector the costs of this action incurred by Defendant and grant Defendant such further relief as this Court finds warranted by the record of the case.

<u>AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES</u>

- 1. The alleged accident and any resulting injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff Parker Keating resulted from one or more independent, intervening, and/or superseding causes or acts, over which Defendant Charlie Spector had neither control nor the right to control and for which Defendant Charlie Spector is not liable, namely (a) that Plaintiff Parker Keating failed to use the seat safety belt that was in the car, and/or (b) by Act of God there was dew on the roadway surface and/or the roadway surface was wet so as to make it slippery, and/ or (c) the Lincolnville Public Works vehicle did not have emergency lights on prior to the collision.
- 2. In the alternative, Defendant Charlie Spector asserts that the Plaintiff Parker Keating was guilty of comparative fault in failing to exercise reasonable caution for Plaintiff's own safety and by assuming the risk of the potential for the alleged incident to occur in one or more of the following respects: (a) that Plaintiff Parker Keating failed to use the seat safety belt that was in the car that Plaintiff was required by law to use; and/or (b) Plaintiff Parker Keating voluntarily became a passenger in and entered Defendant's car, believing that Defendant Charlie

Spector lacked sleep, was tired, and/or fatigued and Plaintiff Parker Keating entered Defendant's

car; and/or (c) Parker Keating voluntarily became a passenger in Defendant's car and allowed

Defendant Charlie Spector to drive that car notwithstanding that Plaintiff Parker Keating believed

that Defendant Charlie Spector lacked sleep, was tired, and/or fatigued shortly before Plaintiff

Parker Keating entered Defendant's car. Plaintiff Parker Keating's fault was the proximate cause

of the alleged accident and any resulting injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff Parker

Keating. If Plaintiff Parker Keating's fault is determined to be fifty percent (50%) or more, then

Plaintiff Parker Keating is barred from any recovery. If Plaintiff Parker Keating's fault is

determined to be less than fifty percent (50%), then any award to Plaintiff Parker Keating must be

reduced accordingly.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Charlie Spector prays that this Court enter judgment in

Defendant's favor on each of Defendant's Affirmative Defenses to Plaintiff's Complaint, award

nothing to Plaintiff Parker Keating, and award Defendant Charlie Spector the costs of this action

incurred by Defendant Charlie Spector and grant Defendant Charlie Spector such further relief as

this Court finds warranted by the record of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

Cunningham Rochford

One of Defendant's Attorneys

PARKER KEATING,)	
Plaintiff, v.))) 2023-LA-18	18
CHARLIE SPECTOR, Defendant.)	
Defendant.)	

AFFIDAVIT

Charlie Spector, being first duly sworn upon oath states as follows:

- Charlie Spector is an adult resident of Lincoln County, State of Illinois, and under no legal disabilities.
- 2. Charlie Spector is the Defendant named in Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 3. Charlie Spector has read the foregoing Answer he/she is making to Plaintiff's Complaint and states that as to those paragraphs of the Answer in which Charlie Spector states that he/she lacks knowledge of the matter sufficient to form a belief as to admit or deny the allegations contained in those paragraphs, said statements of lack of knowledge are true.

Further Affiant sayeth not.

Charlie Spector

Signed and sworn before me on October 2, 2023.

Donna Restock



PARKER KEATING,)	
Plaintiff,)))	A 1010
CHARLIE SPECTOR,) 2023-L	A-1818
Defendant.)	

PLAINTIFF'S ANSWER TO DEFENDANT'S AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Plaintiff Parker Keating, by and through counsel, and for Plaintiff's Answer to Defendant Charlie Spector's Affirmative Defenses, states as follows:

- 1. Plaintiff Parker Keating denies that Plaintiff's injuries resulted from independent, intervening, and/or superseding causes or acts of any kind, and Plaintiff Parker Keating denies that any such cause or act was not within Defendant Charlie Spector's control or right to control.
- Plaintiff Parker Keating denies that Plaintiff Parker Keating was guilty of any comparative fault or that Plaintiff failed to exercise reasonable caution for Plaintiff's own safety or that Plaintiff Parker Keating assumed any risk of the potential for the alleged incident to occur.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court find that none of Defendant Charlie Spector's Affirmative Defenses are proven, find that Plaintiff Parker Keating is entitled to the relief prayed for in Plaintiff's Complaint, and that Plaintiff Parker Keating be awarded such further relief as the Court finds warranted by the record in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Overstreet Theis
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

PARKER KEATING,)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	2023-LA-1818
CHARLIE SPECTOR,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

PRETRIAL ORDER

This cause having come before the Court for a pretrial conference and the Court having considered all pending pretrial motions and arguments of the parties, and the Court having been informed of various stipulations which the parties have entered into, the Court hereby enters the following PRETRIAL ORDER which shall govern the parties and their witnesses during the jury trial to be held in the above-captioned matter:

- 1. The case has been bifurcated. This trial concerns only the liability phase. No evidence that goes solely to the extent of the damages of Plaintiff or Defendant may be presented by either party.
- 2. Jurisdiction, venue, and chain of custody of all evidence are proper and may not be challenged.
- 3. Both parties waive all objections and motions based on the Constitution of the United States. Both parties also waive all objections and motions based on privilege.
- 4. All documents, signatures, and exhibits included in the case materials are authentic; no objections to the authenticity of any documents will be entertained. Both parties must still lay proper foundation prior to entering evidence, and both parties reserve the right to dispute any legal or factual conclusions based on these items and to make objections other than to authenticity.
- 5. All documents and exhibits in the case packet are true and accurate copies of the exhibit. The parties waive all objections to the use of a black and white copy of any exhibit during trial.
- 6. All photographs that the parties may use as evidence at trial are stipulated to be a fair and accurate representation of what is depicted in the photograph.
- 7. All witnesses who were questioned by law enforcement were either properly advised of their Miranda rights and/or agreed to speak voluntarily to law enforcement.

- 8. All witness affidavits are true and correct copies of the witness affidavits, sworn to by the declarant and given on or before October 3, 2023. All witnesses reviewed their affidavits and reports immediately prior to trial and were given an opportunity to revise them. None did so. All witnesses affirm the truthfulness of everything stated in their affidavits. All witness affidavits have been properly signed and notarized. The signatures on the witness statements and reports are authentic and have been properly notarized.
- 9. On June 10, 2023, at the time of the incident giving rise to Plaintiff's Complaint, the parties agree it was 70 degrees Fahrenheit, with a relative humidity of 65%, and that the road conditions had dew present.
- 10. The Plaintiff's medical bills are reasonable and necessary for the degree of injury. The medical bills total \$41,531.59.
- 11. No witness examination or argument can suggest in any manner that there is a missing witness or party to this litigation, and any comparative fault arguments are to be limited only to the two parties to this case.
- 12. The Lincolnville Public Works vehicle at issue in this case was an authorized emergency vehicle under 625 ILCS 5/11-907(c).
- 13. Exhibit 1, a two-page collective exhibit, is complete transcripts of the 911 calls made by Charlie Spector and tow truck driver, Wonnie Jones, on June 10, 2023.
- 14. Exhibit 9, a two-page collective exhibit, is a certified copy of the plea agreement and judgement regarding Parker Keating.
- 15. The parties have stipulated that all required notices regarding the evidence to be used in this case have been given.
- 16. A witness must be formally tendered to the Court in accordance with Rule 702 of the Rules of Evidence before testifying in the form of an expert opinion. A party must establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the tendered expert satisfies Rule 702. There is no definitive checklist of what must or must not be presented for admission of expert testimony. The Court will apply Rule 702 based on the totality of the circumstances presented.
- 17. National Mock Trial Rule of Evidence 703 provides:

"An expert may base an opinion on facts or data in the case that the expert has been made aware of or personally observed. If experts in the particular field would reasonably rely on those kinds of facts or data in forming an opinion on the subject, they need not be admissible for the opinion to be admitted. But if the facts or data would otherwise be inadmissible, the proponent of the opinion may disclose them to the jury

only if their probative value in helping the jury evaluate the opinion substantially outweighs their prejudicial effect."

When an expert witness testifies to underlying facts or data, not otherwise admitted into evidence for the truth of the matter, but solely to explain the expert's opinion, it must be shown that these facts or data relied upon by the expert witness are of the type customarily relied upon by experts in the field and the data must be sufficiently trustworthy to make the reliance reasonable. If the evidence establishes that the facts or data are sufficiently trustworthy to make the reliance reasonable, an expert is permitted not only to consider the reports commonly relied upon by experts in their particular field, but also to testify to the contents of the underlying facts or data.

The Court has also ruled on several pretrial motions filed by the parties. Based on this Court's ruling on the pretrial motions, it is the law of this case that a violation of a statute designed for the protection of human life or property is *prima facie* evidence of negligence or other fault. Where it is shown that a party has violated a statute, this *prima facie* evidence of their negligence may be rebutted by proof that the party acted reasonably under the circumstances of the case, despite the violation.

Based on this Court's ruling on the pretrial motions, it is also the law of this case that Exhibit 2, the accident crash report, is not admissible into evidence to prove the truth of the matters recorded in the report because the report contains conclusions and hearsay. People v. Watkins, 98 Ill. App. 3d 889, 900 (1st Dist. 1981); see also *People v. Garrett*, 216 Ill. App. 3d 348, 357 (1st Dist. 1991) ("a police report summarizes information obtained from various sources during the course of an investigation. Consequently, it is the product of secondhand knowledge as to the reporting officer and, hence, hearsay."). Nor are such reports admissible as a business record. "Although police accident reports may otherwise be admissible in evidence under the law, subsection (a) of this rule does not allow such writings to be admitted as a record or memorandum made in the regular course of business." 145 Ill 2d R. 236(b). The police report may, however, be admissible as a prior witness statement under Mock Trial Rule of Evidence 613. Police reports can also be admissible, provided a proper foundation has been laid, as evidence of a past recollection recorded or for use in impeachment. Watkins, 98III. App. 3d at 900; Wilkinson v. Mullen, 27 III. App. 3d 804, 807 (1st Dist. 1975). Police reports, like any other document, may be used to refresh a witness' recollection, again provided the proper foundation is laid for such use of the report. A person's statement as recorded in a police report may also be used as an exception to the hearsay rule, provided a proper foundation is laid, to establish a person's state of mind at the time statement to the police was made and where the circumstances of the making of the statement indicate the apparent sincerity of the person making the statement. People v. Berry, 172 Ill. App. 3d 256, 262 (1st Dist. 1988). The police report may also be used for impeachment by the use of inconsistent statements, but it is necessary not only to lay the necessary foundation by cross-examining the witness to be impeached, but also to prove by the testimony of an impeaching witness the nature of the alleged statements and the fact that they were made. Allen v. Yancy, 57 Ill. App. 2d 50, 62 (1st Dist. 1965).

The Court has also considered Defendant's pretrial motion that Plaintiff is not entitled to bring a private cause of action for a violation of Scott's Law. Defendant's Motion is denied.

ENTERED: November 30, 2023 Catherine Meyer

Circuit Judge

JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Negligence and the Duty of Care

When I use the word "negligence" in these instructions, I mean the failure to do something which a reasonably careful person would do, or the doing of something which a reasonably careful person would not, under circumstances similar to those shown by the evidence. The law does not say how a reasonably careful person would act under those circumstances. That is for you to decide.

When I use the words "ordinary care," I mean the care a reasonably careful person would use under circumstances similar to those shown by the evidence. The law does not say how a reasonably careful person would act under those circumstances. That is for you to decide.

It was the duty of the Defendant, before and at the time of the occurrence, to use ordinary care for the safety of the Plaintiff. That means it was the duty of the Defendant to be free from negligence.

Plaintiff's Comparative/Contributory Negligence

When I use the expression "contributory negligence," I mean negligence on the part of the Plaintiff that proximately contributed to cause the alleged injury.

It was the duty of the Plaintiff, before and at the time of the occurrence, to use ordinary care for Plaintiff's own safety. Plaintiff is contributorily negligent if (1) the Plaintiff fails to use ordinary care for Plaintiff's own safety and (2) Plaintiff's failure to use such ordinary care is a proximate cause of the alleged injury.

The Plaintiff's contributory negligence, if any, which is 50% or less of the total proximate cause of the injury or damage for which recovery is sought, does not bar Plaintiff's recovery. However, the total amount of damages to which Plaintiff would otherwise be entitled is reduced in proportion to the amount of Plaintiff's negligence. This is known as comparative negligence.

If the Plaintiff's contributory negligence is more than 50% of the total proximate cause of the injury for which recovery is sought, the Defendant shall be found not liable.

Burden of Proof – Negligence and Comparative Negligence

The Plaintiff has the burden of proving each of the following propositions:

First, that the Defendant acted or failed to act in one of the ways claimed by the Plaintiff as stated to you in these instructions and that in so acting, or failing to act, the Defendant was negligent;

Second, that the Plaintiff was injured;

Third, that the negligence of the Defendant was a proximate cause of the injury to the Plaintiff.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that any of these propositions has not been proved, then your verdict shall be for the Defendant.

On the other hand, if you find from your consideration of all the evidence that each of these propositions has been proved, then you must consider the Defendant's claim that the Plaintiff was contributorily negligent. As to that claim, the Defendant has the burden of proving both of the following propositions:

A: That the Plaintiff acted or failed to act in one of the ways claimed by the Defendant as stated to you in these instructions and that in so acting, or failing to act, the Plaintiff was negligent;

B: That the Plaintiff's negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiff's injury.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that the Plaintiff has proved all the propositions required of the Plaintiff and that the Defendant has not proved both of the propositions required of the Defendant, then your verdict shall be for the Plaintiff and you shall not reduce Plaintiff's damages.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that the Defendant has proved both of the propositions required of the Defendant, and if you find that the Plaintiff's contributory negligence was more than 50% of the total proximate cause of the injury or damage for which recovery is sought, then your verdict shall be for the Defendant.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that the Plaintiff has proved all the propositions required of the Plaintiff and that the Defendant has proved both of the propositions required of the Defendant, and if you find that the Plaintiff's contributory negligence was 50% or less of the total proximate cause of the injury or damage for which recovery is sought, then your verdict shall be for the Plaintiff and you shall reduce the Plaintiff's damages in the manner stated to you in these instructions.

When I say that a party has the burden of proof on any proposition, or use the expression "if you find," or "if you decide," I mean you must be persuaded, considering all the evidence in the case, that the proposition on which he has the burden of proof is more probably true than not true.

Plaintiff's Duty

You are instructed as a matter of law that no passenger has a duty to keep a look out or control the driver unless the passenger knows or should have known that such actions are essential to his or her own safety.

Negligence--Intervention of Outside Agency

If you decide that the Defendant was negligent and that the Defendant's negligence was a

proximate cause of injury to the Plaintiff, it is not a defense that something else may also have been a cause of the injury. However, if you decide that the sole proximate cause of injury to the Plaintiff was something other than the conduct of the Defendant, then your verdict should be for the Defendant.

Proximate Cause

When I use the expression "proximate cause," I mean a cause that, in the natural or ordinary course of events, produced the Plaintiff's injury. It need not be the only cause, nor the last or nearest cause. It is sufficient if it combines with another cause resulting in the injury.

Intervening Cause

If you decide that the Defendant was negligent and that the Defendant's negligence was a proximate cause of injury to the Plaintiff, it is not a defense that something else may also have been a cause of the injury. However, if you decide that the sole proximate cause of injury to the Plaintiff was something other than the conduct of the Defendant, then your verdict should be for the Defendant.

The negligence of the Defendant will not constitute a proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries if you find that some intervening act supersedes Defendant's negligence, but if you find that the Defendant could reasonably foresee the intervening act, that act will not relieve the Defendant of liability.

Act of God

A loss or injury is due to the act of God, when it is occasioned exclusively by natural causes such as could not be prevented by human care, skill, and foresight. However, if you find from your consideration of all of the evidence in the case that Defendant's acts or omissions proximately contributed to cause Plaintiff's injuries, then Defendant may be found liable for Plaintiff's injuries notwithstanding any act of God that may have proximately caused Plaintiff's injuries.

Violation of Statute

There was in force in the State of Illinois at the time of the occurrence in question a certain statute which provided in pertinent part as follows:

"A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device, including using an electronic communication device to watch or stream video.

A person commits aggravated use of an electronic communication device when he or she violates subsection (b) and in committing the violation he or she is involved in a motor vehicle accident that results in great bodily harm, permanent disability, disfigurement, or death to another and the violation is a proximate cause of the injury or death."

There was also in force in the State of Illinois at the time of the occurrence in question a certain statute which provided in pertinent part:

"No vehicle may be driven upon any highway of this State at a speed which is greater than is reasonable and proper with regard to traffic conditions and the use of the highway, or endangers the safety of any person or property. The fact that the speed of a vehicle does not exceed the applicable maximum speed limit does not relieve the driver from the duty to decrease speed when approaching and crossing an intersection, approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway, or when special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions. Speed must be decreased as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person or vehicle on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care."

There was also in force in the State of Illinois at the time of the occurrence in question a certain statute which provided in pertinent part:

"Upon approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle, when the authorized emergency vehicle is giving a signal by displaying alternately flashing red, red and white, blue, or red and blue lights or amber or yellow warning lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle shall:

- (1) proceeding with due caution, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle, if possible with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, if on a highway having at least 4 lanes with not less than 2 lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or
- (2) if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe, proceeding with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions and leaving a safe distance until safely past the stationary emergency vehicles.

The visual signal specified under this subsection (c) given by an authorized emergency vehicle is an indication to drivers of approaching vehicles that a hazardous condition is present when circumstances are not immediately clear. Drivers of vehicles approaching a stationary emergency vehicle in any lane shall heed the warning of the signal, reduce the speed of the vehicle, proceed with due caution, maintain a safe speed for road conditions, be prepared to stop, and leave a safe distance until safely passed the stationary emergency vehicle.

As used in this subsection (c), "authorized emergency vehicle" includes any vehicle authorized by law to be equipped with oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights under Section 12-215 of this Code, while the owner or operator of the vehicle is engaged in his or her official duties."

There was also in force in the State of Illinois at the time of the occurrence in question a certain statute which provided in pertinent part:

Each driver and passenger of a motor vehicle operated on a street or highway in this State shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat safety belt.

[Mock Trial Note: Although the Illinois seat belt law provides that "[f]ailure to wear a seat safety belt in violation of this Section shall not be considered evidence of negligence", for purposes of this Mock Trial, the failure to wear a seat safety belt when required can be considered evidence of negligence.]

If you decide that a party violated any of the statutes on the occasion in question, then you may consider that fact together with all the other facts and circumstances in evidence in determining whether and to what extent, if any, a party was negligent before and at the time of the occurrence.

APPLICABLE STATUTES

625 ILCS 5/11-601(a)

No vehicle may be driven upon any highway of this State at a speed which is greater than is reasonable and proper with regard to traffic conditions and the use of the highway, or endangers the safety of any person or property. The fact that the speed of a vehicle does not exceed the applicable maximum speed limit does not relieve the driver from the duty to decrease speed when approaching and crossing an intersection, approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon a narrow or winding roadway, or when special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by any reason of weather or highway conditions. Speed must be decreased as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person or vehicle on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

625 ILCS 5/12-610.2

- (a) As used in this Section:
- "Electronic communication device" means an electronic device, including but not limited to a hand-held wireless telephone, hand-held personal digital assistant, or a portable or mobile computer, but does not include a global positioning system or navigation system or a device that is physically or electronically integrated into the motor vehicle.
- (b) A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device.

625 ILCS 5/11-907(c)

Upon approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle, when the authorized emergency vehicle is giving a signal by displaying alternately flashing red, red and white, blue, or red and blue lights or amber or yellow warning lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle shall:

- (1) proceeding with due caution, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle, if possible with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, if on a highway having at least 4 lanes with not less than 2 lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or
- (2) proceeding with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe.

As used in this subsection (c), "authorized emergency vehicle" includes any vehicle authorized by law to be equipped with oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights under Section 12-215 of this Code, while the owner or operator of the vehicle is engaged in his or her official duties.

PLAINTIFF WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: PARKER KEATING

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My name is Parker Keating. I turned 18 on January 5, 2023. I live with my parents in Lincolnville, Lincoln County, Illinois. I love the outdoors, and especially fishing. My mom, Paisley Keating, is a champion bass angler and started me fishing when I was just a little tyke. You may have heard of her. She placed in the top five at the Giant Bass Anglers' Classic national tournament a few years ago. She's my idol! I want to be a large animal veterinarian as a career, but it has been my lifelong dream to win the Giant Bass Anglers' Classic and now all of that is probably lost because of what Charlie Spector did to me on June 10, 2023. I remember that day like it was yesterday. It changed my life forever. It all started on Thursday, June 8, 2023. Charlie and I had just graduated in May from Lincolnville High School, and we were looking forward to attending college in the fall. Charlie had gotten into Illinois State University, and I was accepted to Southern Illinois University Carbondale, but neither of us had visited the colleges yet. I saw Charlie at the local pizza joint and Charlie suggested that we take a quick tour of each college and make a road trip of it, and I agreed. It sounded fun! Charlie also invited Jessie Finch, whom I knew somewhat, but not as well as I knew Charlie. Jessie had been in our class at Lincolnville High School and had also just graduated. Jessie was better friends with Charlie but had always been friendly to me. Charlie and I went to elementary, middle, and high school together and were in the same 4-H club. I had always thought of Charlie as a very good friend, which made what happened even more upsetting. Since Jessie had also been accepted to a few schools, and we all had to work on Monday, we decided to make it a marathon road trip to visit three colleges: Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Illinois State University, and Millikin University, which Jessie had gotten into. We left early in the morning on June 9, 2023, for our first visit. All of us had cars, but Charlie's car, a

Honda Civic, was the newest and Charlie had added a great sound system, so we chose to use it.

Jessie and I suggested that we could rotate drivers, but Charlie preferred to drive. I think Charlie was a little protective of the car or maybe remembered that I had a few speeding tickets under my belt!

We toured each of the colleges, which was interesting and took a while. It was after 11:30 p.m. when we left the last college, and we had a long drive ahead of us to get home. I was a little worried because it was getting late. I'm more of a morning person, but Charlie said it would be fine, so we all piled into the car. I was in the back seat and Jessie was in the front seat. Of course, Charlie was driving. Charlie told everyone to buckle up, which we did, and off we went.

Everything was great for a while. We were all psyched to be going to college soon and the visits had really made it seem real to us. We talked excitedly about the campuses and clubs we wanted to join for a couple of hours, then Charlie put on some music, and we listened to that for a while. It was really loud, and we were all singing and dancing in our seats. After several songs, I glanced at Charlie and saw Charlie yawn a few times. I asked if Charlie wanted to switch drivers, but Charlie said no, everything was fine.

We drove a little further and Charlie said we were going to stop and get gas. I wanted to stretch after sitting in the back seat for so long. Charlie pulled into Sawtooth Gas Station, and I realized we were only a few miles from Lincolnville. We all got out and Jessie and I went into the convenience store while Charlie pumped gas. I used the bathroom and was buying a bottle of water when Charlie came in. Charlie picked out a Red Bull and a candy bar and bought them. I think Charlie may be sensitive to caffeine. I don't know if Jessie got anything, but it looked like there was something in Jessie's hand when we left the store. We got back in the car and got back on the road. This time, I was in the front seat and Jessie climbed into the back seat on the driver's side.

Charlie told us to buckle up again, and I think I did, but I'm not sure because I was trying to take off my new Southern Illinois University Carbondale sweater at the same time.

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We were heading north on Veterans Parkway, which is a four-lane divided highway, with two lanes in each direction. The road is kind of winding as it goes through Lincolnville. I saw Charlie yawn again and open the window slightly to let cool air in. It was pretty dark and there was not a lot of traffic. I remember Charlie saying something about worrying that Charlie's mother would be mad that we were coming home so much later than planned. I was a little drowsy and may have drifted off for a few minutes, but I was definitely awake for what happened next.

We were in the lane closest to the shoulder and Charlie and Jessie were messing with the GPS map on the phone, trying to figure out which exit would be best to get to Jessie's house. Jessie had also been using the phone to change the music. At the same moment, the phone rang, and Charlie answered it. I could hear it was Charlie's mom and she sounded pretty mad that Charlie had not called to say that we would be home late. Charlie's car had Bluetooth, but I think Charlie turned the phone on speaker for the call. I am pretty sure the phone was in Charlie's right hand during the call. The speaker was loud, and it made me nervous. Charlie was trying to calm Mrs. Spector down and Jessie was also talking to Mrs. Spector from the back seat. I started to say something, and then I saw a big truck on the shoulder ahead of us. I noticed it because it had flashing yellow-colored lights and writing on the side. It was parked on the right side of the road, and I'm pretty sure I saw a guy several yards ahead of the truck picking up something that was laying on the shoulder. Just then, the call ended, and I heard the phone hit the console or something. I think that Charlie tossed or dropped the phone because that was when Charlie lost control of the car. I can't remember the exact timing; I am a little fuzzy about the details there. But I do know that Charlie was using the phone and that we did not move over for the truck at all.

My recollection of the actual crash is kind of hazy. I felt very lightheaded. I remember feeling like time stopped and then there was a huge impact. I flew forward and then everything went black. I heard later that we crashed into a Lincolnville Public Works maintenance truck. I was told that the paramedics got me out of the car, but I don't remember anything else until I woke up later at the Lincolnville Community Hospital. I don't recall talking to anyone at the accident scene.

My injuries from the wreck were severe. My right ankle was shattered, and doctors told me that I may not be able to walk again without a walker or cane. My back and neck ache, too, but luckily were not broken. But the worst thing is that my right arm was broken in several places, and I injured my right shoulder. I am right-handed and that was my casting arm! Now I can barely move it and the doctors don't know if I will regain full range of motion, even with extensive physical therapy. When I arrived at the hospital, I was in so much pain that I could hardly talk to the doctor. The doctor asked me lots of questions like how much it hurt, where it hurt, if I had been drinking or doing drugs, and things like that. I told the doctor the truth – I never do drugs! I like to be clear-headed at all times and the one time I tried gummies, I felt really weird and didn't like it. I couldn't move my right ankle or arm. Eventually, I had to have surgery on both my ankle and arm and the doctors said I might require future surgery if things don't heal properly. The entire thing was very painful. Even with pain medication, my ankle still hurts when I try to walk, which I can only do with a walker right now.

To be a champion angler, I need to be able to stand for long periods of time on the deck of a bass boat, and to have full use of my arms. Anglers cast repeatedly and then you must be able to reel in and land a fish. Also, operation of a trolling motor pedal requires full use of motion in my ankle. Because of the injuries I sustained, I cannot stand for long periods of time or lift anything

over 15 pounds above shoulder height because of the pain and injuries to my ankle and arm. My right arm no longer has the full range of motion needed to cast properly. The ability to stand, lift heavy weight, and move my arm fully was also necessary for my dream career of being a large animal vet, so I am worried I won't be able to do that, either.

I feel like my entire life has been ruined because of what Charlie did. I don't understand why Charlie would not let someone else drive or pull over if Charlie was tired. Plus, Charlie was so distracted by that call with Mrs. Spector! I know Charlie was worried about her being upset, but Charlie wasn't paying attention or being careful while driving. Also, Charlie should have moved over when we saw that truck with its lights on! A speaker from the Illinois State Police just came to our school a few weeks ago to talk about safe driving and he said that driving while tired or distracted is as bad as driving after drinking alcohol and that when you see an emergency vehicle with its lights on, you're supposed to move over. I didn't see a car in the other lane, so I think Charlie could have moved into that lane and not hit the truck. Charlie was my friend and I feel bad about this, but Charlie's inattention almost cost me my life, and it certainly impacted my quality of life.

I am familiar with, and have knowledge about, the following exhibits: Exhibits 3A-B was the roadway we were traveling on that morning. Exhibit 4 is Charlie's phone in the car. All the items depicted in Exhibits 7, 8 and 15 were in the car that morning. Exhibit 9 was my perjury conviction that I plead guilty to. I have since learned my lesson and would never tell a lie under oath ever again. Exhibit 11 is the Scott's Law poster I've seen at my high school and at the Sawtooth Gas Station. Exhibit 12 looks like the truck Charlie hit. Exhibit 13 and 14 is the Sawtooth Gas Station we stopped at and bought snacks.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Signed and sworn before me on November 3, 2023.

Den Larper



PLAINTIFF WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: SAM HALLER

My name is Sam Haller. I am proud of the opportunities that this country and the State of Illinois have provided to me to raise my family. My parents came over as immigrants and taught me to respect laws. I am 55 years old, married with two adult children. My children are out of the house. They moved to Chicago because they wanted to be in the city. I live in the town of Lincolnville, Lincoln County, Illinois, and have lived here for twenty-five (25) years. I proudly own Sawtooth Gas Station which is located approximately five miles outside Lincolnville and about ten miles from my home.

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I built Sawtooth Gas Station with hard work and a lot of sweat equity. This place looked like a dump when I purchased it. I built Sawtooth Gas to be a gas station and mini-convenience store. It is moderately sized and has only a few aisles with food and last-minute travel items. I can see everything inside the store from the cash register. Sawtooth Gas sells water, sodas, chips, candy, energy drinks, cigarettes and lottery tickets. I have a regular stream of customers as well as others who are just passing through to get gas. I have built a good reputation in the community of being an honest merchant. I don't cheat people or charge exorbitant prices for gas, food or snacks. I don't sell beer or alcoholic beverages. I don't have a license for those. I compromised with energy drinks, like Red Bull. I have read the label and occasionally remind people that Red Bull is not a substitute for sleep, and it's not recommended for children, pregnant or nursing women, and people sensitive to caffeine. I also sell a lot of NoDoz. I normally tell people who buy those, "Get some sleep and stay off the road!" NoDoz pills are basically caffeine pills that are used to help restore mental alertness or wakefulness when experiencing fatigue or drowsiness. The recommended dose of that product contains about as much caffeine as a cup of coffee, and you should never use NoDoz as a substitute for sleep.

Some say that I operate Sawtooth more like a country store. I don't mind them saying that because I don't like all that modern stuff anyway. I try to take a more personal approach with people when I can. The Sawtooth Gas Station sits off the main road. It is not a super modern gas station. Most people who stop here are about to run out of gas. Sawtooth got its name from my family being a generation of carpenters. There is even a saw at the back of the store hanging on the wall. I added the tooth as a sign of good fortune. The gas station has two rows for pumps. When all pumps are working, there are four pumps. Three are for gas and one for diesel. The windows are pretty clear with not a lot of signage, except for a Scott's Law poster placed at the bottom of the window.

I usually look out the window to see the people at the pump. Most of the time, I am the only person working in the station. I have one part-time worker named Al who comes in as needed. Al was not present on the day in question when some young people came in that I later learned had been in some kind of accident. They were not very friendly, but they were not rude. Typical college age kids. They seemed disinterested and only wanted to use the bathroom and buy a couple of things, so I did not engage with them.

I am very conscientious about roadway safety because there is a large number of students who pass through when school is in session. We are not far from a couple of colleges. I have a Scott's Law sign posted at the bottom of my door to remind people to pull over when emergency vehicles are on the side of the road. I have relatives who work for the State of Illinois transportation system. I am concerned about their safety when they go out. However, I have not talked to any of them about this case.

I truly remember seeing three young people in the early morning of June 10, 2023. I only remember this because I later heard that there had been an accident not far from the Sawtooth Gas

Station. I remember one of the students, the driver I think but I'm not sure, had been making fun of the Scott's Law poster. I don't specifically recall each person distinctly. I remember that two of these young people came into the store to pay for gas while another young person pumped gas. The two went immediately to the restroom; then the other one who had been pumping gas came in. One of them bought candy, Red Bull and I think some NoDoz pills. I am not sure who bought the NoDoz pills. But I am sure of the candy and the Red Bull. The driver bought the Red Bull for certain. One of them was yawning and appeared tired. I cannot identify exactly which of them was yawning. I overheard them talking; but could not make out what was said. I just heard the part where they were questioning who should drive.

They were in the store ten to fifteen minutes. When they came to the counter, they were about four or five feet away from me for about three or four minutes. They did not want a receipt for the candy or Red Bull and they had received a receipt for the gas at the pump. The sign on the door is pretty visible, but it is on the lower portion of the door. In fact, they stared at the sign while leaving the store. One of them, I think the one that rode in the back seat of the car, laughed at the sign and mocked it. That person was laughing a lot and seemed high as a kite! By the time they finally left, I was glad to see them go.

Sawtooth has security cameras for the store; but they were under maintenance at the time Parker Keating, Charlie Spector and Jessie Finch stopped in. All recently took a picture of me in the gas station. It was taken during the day. I don't have a picture at night or in the early morning hours. It clearly shows the door with the sign.

I am familiar with, and have knowledge about, the following exhibits: Exhibits 7 and 15 are products I sell at my store. Exhibit 11 is hanging up inside my store and is also within Exhibit

- 14. Exhibits 13 and 14 are photos of my beautiful gas station; I sent those to some lawyer who
- 69 asked for them!
- Further affiant sayeth not.
- 71 Signed and sworn before me on
- 72 November 3, 2023.





PLAINTIFF WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: PROFESSOR CAMERON GOODMAN

My name is Cameron Goodman, and I am forty (40) years old. I currently reside in Springfield, Illinois. I have been employed as a professor of Physics at the University of Illinois Springfield since September 2015.

I have been given the opportunity to review the evidence associated with this case with regard to the Crash Retrieval Information Efficacy System (CRIES) data obtained from Defendant Charlie Spector's vehicle. I have over 20 years of experience working with insurance companies, specifically NationalAutoCare, Inc., as a Crash Data Analyst ("CDA") and am familiar with all types of crash reconstruction tools, and collision-related data. I have testified in over one hundred (100) cases and provided expert opinions on crash causation. I am also certified to download and analyze the data retrieved from black boxes on cars using CRIES.

CRIES has been used by reconstructionists and data analysts all over the world in an effort to pinpoint the cause of collisions when the details are unclear. For example, if a vehicle traveling at normal speed suddenly veers off the road into a guard rail, CRIES analyzes whether the driver made a sharp turn, attempted to slow the vehicle, or even whether the vehicle was connected to Bluetooth devices at the time and whether the devices were active. CRIES will also tell analysts whether the vehicle had an internal emergency signal, how long the signal had been present, and whether the signal was presented to the driver at the time of collision. While CRIES will not give an analyst a definitive cause in and of itself of a collision, it is by using its data and our expertise that we are able to offer insight into the probable cause of collision or at least its contributing factors.

Here, I was provided with the information that there were three people traveling in a 2009 Honda Civic when the vehicle collided with a municipal vehicle that was parked in the right side of the road. The occupants included the driver, Charlie Spector, a front seat passenger, Parker Keating, and a backseat passenger, Jessie Finch. Weather conditions were clear, and visibility was low, as the crash occurred early in the morning hours. Following the collision, the vehicle's black box was recovered and provided information of factors contributing to the accident.

When the information was uploaded to CRIES, CRIES provided that the vehicle was traveling at a normal rate of speed of 45 miles per hour, which is consistent with the limits for that area. Approximately two (2) seconds prior to collision, the vehicle suddenly "jerked" right. CRIES reports that the brakes were activated, however the vehicle did not have much time to stop or slow prior to impact as indicated by the numbers presented in the report. The driver must not have seen what was coming ahead because they didn't activate the brakes at all until one second before impact. Simply put, there was not enough distance in between the two vehicles to initiate a safe stop within the time leading up to the collision.

Further data presented by CRIES indicates that the vehicle was connected to the Bluetooth system throughout the trip. One pitfall of the system is that it can only tell you that Bluetooth devices are connected and active, but not whether they were "in use" by the driver or its occupants at the time of collision. For example, the data will show that a phone was connected to the system and that it was on a call or playing music but will not tell you whether a text message was being sent, whether social media applications were open and if posts were being made, or whether the GPS app is the source of continued activity. In this particular case, Bluetooth shows that a phone call was active about twenty (20) seconds prior to the accident.

Finally, CRIES revealed that the vehicle was exhibiting a "trouble signal" and had been for some weeks. The vehicle should have displayed a check engine symbol, unless other issues with the dashboard were present, and if checked, would have given the code P0637, which is

consistent with an issue with power steering. This signal usually appears when the power steering fluid is low or has an active leak. It is unclear as to which occurred as I was unable to make a determination due to the condition of the vehicle after the collision.

Based on the data overall, I can conclude that the vehicle was going about the speed limit on the roadway and the steering wheel was suddenly turned right about two seconds prior to the crash. The driver never corrected back to the left hard enough to avoid a crash and did not activate their brake in time to avoid a collision either. I can also conclude that the phone was connected to Bluetooth and in use about 20 seconds prior to the crash and that there was some issue with the power steering that was actively displaying a warning message to the driver on the dashboard. I am unable to conclude anything on what caused this crash however based on the limited information I was provided by the Plaintiff.

I have testified a several times in cases like this, usually for the plaintiff, but I would be willing to testify for a defendant. I enjoy testifying in court and it gives me an opportunity to get the word out about my skills in this area to lawyers in case they need me for another case. Of course, I am a professional and I am paid for my time and my hourly rate is \$300 per hour, but that does not affect my investigation or report.

These findings are consistent with the data presented in the CRIES report which has been provided to all parties. I am familiar with, and have knowledge about, the following exhibits: Exhibit 2 was the crash report provided to me by the police. Exhibit 4 was the Defendant's Bluetooth-capable cell phone. Exhibit 5 was the police report provided to me by the police. Exhibit 6 is consistent with the dashboard of Defendant's 2009 Honda Civic. Exhibit 10 is the aforementioned CRIES report. Exhibit 12 was a picture of the vehicle struck prior to the incident.

Further affiant sayeth not.

- Signed and sworn before me on November 3, 2023. 69
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DEFENSE WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: CHARLIE SPECTOR

My name is Charlie Spector, and I am 18 years old. I live in Lincolnville, Lincoln County, 1 Illinois. I just graduated from Lincolnville High School in May 2023. 2 I planned on attending college this fall at Illinois State University and want to study pre-3 law and major in political science and sociology. Back in June of 2023, I was accepted into ISU, 4 5 but I had only done an online tour and never visited the campus. Parker Keating was accepted into Southern Illinois University in Carbondale Illinois. Parker told me that Parker hadn't toured the 6 7 campus of Southern Illinois University either, so we decided that we needed to take a road trip 8 together to visit the colleges, which are a drivable distance from one another. Our friend, Jessie Finch, was invited to go with us because Finch had gotten into Millikin University in Decatur, 9 Illinois, and wanted to visit that campus. 10 We decided to leave for our road trip very early on June 9, 2023. We took my car because 11 one, it was the newest car and, two, I like to drive. We left early in the morning and went to all 12 13 three colleges in one day, which was fun but a long day. It was really tiring - YIPE! For most of the trip, Parker was in the back seat and Jessie was in the front passenger seat. We didn't finish 14 the tours until about 11:30 p.m. and we had a drive several hours to get back home. 15 16 I made sure that everyone was wearing seatbelts before we set off for home. I remember specifically telling them to buckle up. We were all talking about the colleges and leaving home in 17 18 the fall. We were all so excited and the road trip was going really well. My gas was getting low, 19 so I pulled into Sawtooth Gas Station to fill up. I thought stopping was a good idea anyway because I was starting to feel tired and a bit droopy eyed. 20 21 I filled the car up with gas and got a Red Bull and a snack. I was feeling much better and 22 way more awake. We got back out on the road. I noticed that Jessie and Parker had switched seats,

Jessie was now in the back seat and Parker was up front with me. I told them again to buckle up, but I didn't check to see if they did so. Jessie was using my phone to change the music. We were on Veterans Parkway in Lincolnville, which is a four-lane road with two lanes in each direction. Parker and I had been talking but I noticed Parker was also starting to nod off and, at points, appeared to be sleeping. To be honest, I think Jessie may have been eating pot gummies right before Jessie got in the back in the car, at the gas station. Jessie likely didn't remember anything. I recall Jessie saying, "I'm so high right now, buddy!" and Parker saying "yeah, buddy" - whatever that means. It's possible Parker had a gummy, too. I don't know, but Jessie and Parker were together in the gas station.

I was trying to figure out where to get off the highway to get Jessie home when the phone rang so I answered it, by the Bluetooth, well actually Jessie reached forward and pushed the answer feature in my car, it was my mom and she was worried because it was getting pretty late, and she heard that it was forecast to rain, and she was worried the roads might become slippery. It hadn't rained for some time, but you could feel the humidity in the air. The Bluetooth on my car is spotty, so the phone sometimes doesn't connect, and I have to use the speaker on the phone. I wasn't holding the phone this time, though. I noticed that the pavement was starting to get a little slippery, perhaps from morning dew, so I ended my call with my mother.

In fact, any time we changed the radio station or needed to answer the call from my mom it was either Parker or Jessie who would change the channel or answer the phone. I didn't want to because I was really concerned about driving safely, especially because the road was a little slick and it was curvy. Parts of it seemed narrower than other parts, so you couldn't always see a long way in front of you, and I started to slow down. We were coming around a curve and just on the other side of the curve, I saw a parked truck. It looked like a road maintenance truck, and I found

out later that it was a Lincolnville Public Works truck. There was another car in the other lane next to me and I couldn't move over and didn't have time to slow down much more.

My car hit the corner of the truck on the front passenger side of my car, where Parker was sitting. When my car hit the truck, I saw Parker fly forward. Because of this, I don't think Parker was wearing a seatbelt. I had glanced in the rear-view window before I saw the truck and I think Jessie was sleeping. The whole thing was very scary. I know Parker and the truck driver said there was a light flashing on the roof of the truck, but I didn't see any light!

After the impact, when we came to a stop, I asked everyone if they were okay. Parker said yes and so did Jessie. Parker did say that one of Parker's arms felt a little bruised and sore. The police came and all of us were out of the car walking around including Parker and Jessie.

The ambulance arrived and took Parker to the hospital. The police suggested that Jessie and I go to the hospital, too, to get checked out, but we didn't go. I called my mom to tell her what happened, and she told me to just tell the truth to the police about what happened. So, I did.

When I heard that Parker was hurt I was shocked because at no time did I see Parker get knocked out, that there was limping, saying that something hurt or holding any limbs. I guess it was the adrenaline or maybe those funny gummies.

When I heard the extent of Parker's injuries I was just shocked because after the accident, during the summer when we hung out I didn't see any casts on Parker or there wasn't any mention that there would be surgery or anything like that. Parker was wearing a brace on one ankle and hand saying that the doctors said they were sprained. Then I got served with papers that I'm being sued; I was just shocked. We hung out all summer until I got served with papers, then Parker wouldn't talk to me anymore.

I wish this didn't happen; I did everything I could to avoid the crash.

I am familiar with, and have knowledge about, the following exhibits: Exhibit 1 was my call to the police that morning; I'm not sure about the other call with the Public Works driver. Exhibit 3 was the road we were driving on that morning. Exhibit 4 is my cellphone that I used that morning. Exhibit 6 was my dashboard in my car. That check engine light has been on forever and the Civic still runs like a beauty! Exhibits 7, 8, and 15, were all in the car that morning. I've seen Exhibit 11 before at my high school and at the Sawtooth Gas Station. Exhibit 12 was the truck we hit that morning. Exhibits 13 and 14 are the Sawtooth Gas Station.

Further affiant sayeth not.

76 Signed and sworn before me on

Steve Kerrmit

77 November 3, 2023.



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DEFENSE WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: JESSIE FINCH

My name is Jessie Finch and I live in Lincolnville, Lincoln County, Illinois. I just turned 18 years old. I recently graduated from Lincolnville High School. On June 9, 2023, I went on a tour of some colleges with my friends, Charlie Spector and Parker Keating. I was a decent student in high school and got accepted into a few colleges, including Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. I even managed to get a little scholarship money from a few of them. However, I only applied to college because my parents wanted me to. They didn't go to college and worked really hard to make a good life for our family. They didn't want me to struggle the way they did. But I'm not sure I want to go to college yet. I'm still not exactly sure what I want to do with my life. College is really expensive, and I don't want to waste the money my parents have saved for it if I am not really sure it's right for me. Plus, between what they have managed to save and the scholarship money I've been offered, I'm still not even sure I could afford to go to college. I've thought about becoming an electrician or elevator technician. It's basically a guaranteed job and I would make pretty good money. I also love working with my hands.

Anyway, I decided to tour some colleges with Charlie and Parker to keep everyone off my back. Charlie has been my best friend since we were in kindergarten. I feel like Charlie has known exactly where Charlie wanted to go to school and what Charlie wanted to do with Charlie's life since the day we met. Charlie was so excited about the college tours that I hadn't mentioned my second thoughts yet. I didn't want to disappoint Charlie, so I agreed to go along and thought maybe it would help me make my decision. I got along with Parker pretty well, too. We had all gone to school together since we were kids, but Charlie and I didn't really start hanging out with Parker until sophomore year of high school. I worked at the local pizza place and Charlie liked to hang

out while I worked. Parker and Parker's family came in there a lot, so we ended up becoming better friends.

We left for the first tour the morning of June 9, 2023, in Charlie's car. Charlie did pretty much all of the driving. Even though I have my driver's license, I don't actually own my own car, so I don't have a lot of driving experience, especially not driving as far as we were going. Charlie gave me rides to school all the time. We would also go on longer drives every now and then to the nearby towns for something to do. Charlie also didn't really trust Parker to drive because Parker has a bit of a lead foot.

The first part of the trip went perfectly smoothly. After visiting all three colleges, we started the drive back home around 11:30 p.m.. Leaving that late would get us home long obviously after midnight but I wasn't too worried about it. Charlie has always been a night owl. Charlie and Parker were also super wired from the visits and would not stop talking about the different colleges and stuff. I honestly stayed pretty quiet, but Charlie and Parker didn't seem to notice. Charlie had also designated me to be the one in charge of Charlie's phone, playing the music, and checking the GPS, if needed. Charlie was an excellent driver and took staying focused on the road very seriously. Charlie left me in charge of all that, so that Charlie wouldn't get distracted, just like Charlie always did when we traveled together.

After a little while, Charlie and Parker's rambling finally started to wind down. I think Parker was getting tired because I heard someone yawn a few times. I was getting a bit tired myself so I grabbed Charlie's phone to switch up the music to something more upbeat that we could sing and dance to in order to keep us awake. I noticed on the GPS that we were getting close to Lincolnville, so I suggested to Charlie that maybe we stop somewhere to stretch really quick before the final leg of our trip home.

Charlie ended up pulling into a gas station just outside of Lincolnville. Charlie pumped gas and all three of us went inside the convenience store. Charlie and I both got a small snack and an energy drink. Somebody said something about THC gummies and, even though I have used those in the past, I didn't buy any that evening. We would be home soon and who wants their parents to see them stoned? Parker bought something too, but I couldn't tell what. When we got back into the car, Parker and I switched places, so Parker was in the front with Charlie, and I was in the back. The Bluetooth on the car was spotty, so Charlie set the phone on the console so I could pick songs. We started back north on Veterans Parkway, which reminded me of an interstate with four lanes, two in each direction and grass in the middle. It had some curves here and there but nothing too abrupt. The traffic was pretty light, and it was not raining, though it was kind of misty and dark because there was no moon.

I think Parker started falling asleep because Charlie started trying to talk to me about the tours again. You could still hear the excitement in Charlie's voice. I tried to change the subject by telling Charlie I was a bit tired and asking if I should call Charlie's mom before I fell asleep because I know she always worries about her only "baby". Charlie said not to worry about it since we weren't that far from home. So, I leaned against the window, closed my eyes and pretended to fall asleep.

I must have ended up really falling asleep for just a minute or two because all of a sudden, I heard Charlie ask me to check the phone's GPS app to see if we were close to the right exit. I picked up the phone off of the console and started looking at the map. Then the phone rang. I can't remember if I answered the phone or Charlie did, but I heard Charlie's mom's voice. She was completely freaking out. I'm not sure if the call was coming from the phone's speaker or the car's Bluetooth speaker, but it was clearly one of these because I could hear Charlie's mom plain as day.

Charlie was trying to tell her that we were alright and to calm her down. We were still one of the only cars on the road so Charlie was in the right-hand lane, but it was really dark around us. The road wasn't well lit at all. I was still a little groggy and I honestly don't remember if Charlie was holding the phone or whether I was.

The last thing I remember hearing was Charlie saying we would be home soon. I don't remember hearing Charlie's mom's voice after that but I'm not sure because everything that happened next happened so quickly. Out of the corner of my eye, I think I saw a yellow flash of light outside the car. I wasn't sure exactly what it was - it could have been another car passing by or one of the few streetlights we managed to pass. When I looked up to see what it was, I saw a white pickup truck on the right shoulder next to us. It was close, way too close. I knew instantly that we were going to hit it. I think Charlie realized this at the same time I did because as soon as I opened my mouth to say, "look out", Charlie swerved and lost control of the car.

I ducked to the left for cover and braced for impact. I'm not 100% sure what happened after we hit the truck. It all happened so fast, and it was so dark. After what seemed like forever, Charlie's car came to a stop and the silence was terrifying. I had never been in a car accident before, and I was scared. I don't remember feeling hurt right away, but my heart was racing. I immediately called out to Charlie and Parker to make sure they were ok. Charlie said something about needing to call for help. I had never felt so relieved to hear the sound of Charlie's voice. I started looking for Charlie's phone to call 911, the I remembered that Parker was in the car, too. I nearly forgot because Parker was so quiet after we left the gas station, I thought Parker must have passed out. I couldn't find the phone, so I told Charlie to look for it and call 911. Next, I heard Charlie on the phone with 911 and shortly after heard the faint sound of sirens. The EMS whisked Parker away in an ambulance and then got to work on me and Charlie. I had a few small cuts from

the broken glass and was pretty sore from the seatbelt but all in all I got really lucky. Yeah, I was totally wearing my seatbelt, but I don't know if Parker was. I never saw Parker put the seatbelt on when we got in the car, that's for sure!

Charlie and I tried to visit Parker in the hospital after we got a good night's sleep, but we weren't allowed in. I assumed Parker was upset with Charlie over the crash, so I tried to visit a few days later by myself once Parker got home, but Parker still refused to see me. I know we weren't ever really all that close, but I just wanted to see how Parker was doing, you know? I heard Parker was pretty banged up. After a week or two, I did see Parker's dad at work when he came in to pick up a pizza and he said Parker was doing better but that Parker was not allowed to see Charlie or me again. Charlie and I are still friends, but the rest of the summer just wasn't the same. Instead of having the time of our lives, we didn't really spend that much time together and even when we did, we stayed at one of our houses and didn't go out. I don't think Charlie could bear the "looks" from people in town.

I ended up not going to college after all and started a union apprenticeship about a month ago. Charlie went off to Illinois State University in August and got into studying and the college life. Even though that was how Charlie had always been, I think part of it was to forget about what happened and get a fresh start. We still text every now and then, but I think Charlie is kind of disappointed I didn't go to college. I don't regret my choice to join the union, but I do miss my friend. It's weird not having Charlie around after seeing Charlie almost every day since Kindergarten.

I wish none of this had happened to Parker, but I don't think it was Charlie's fault. Charlie is a safe driver. Charlie did yawn a few times at the store, but seemed alert after we got back in the car and nobody could have seen that truck on a curve in the dark like that!

I am familiar with, and have knowledge about, the following exhibits: Exhibit 3 was the road we were driving on that morning. Exhibit 4 was Charlie's cellphone we were using. Exhibit 6 looks like Charlie's car dashboard. Exhibits 7, 8, and 15, were all in the car that morning. I've seen Exhibit 11 at my high school and at the Sawtooth Gas Station. Exhibit 12 was the truck we hit that morning. Exhibits 13 and 14 are the Sawtooth Gas Station.

Further affiant sayeth not.

119	Signed and sworn before me on
120	November 3, 2023.

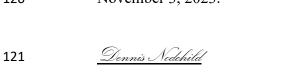
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State of Illinois

DEFENSE WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: OFFICER KIT MASON

1	My name is Officer Kit Mason, but my real friends call me "Bruiser" and I don't know
2	why. Frankly, I have better things that I could be doing today than being here for this, but I was
3	subpoenaed to be here.
4	I am 36 years old, and I am a patrol officer with the Lincoln County Police Department in
5	Lincolnville, Lincoln County, Illinois. I am married and have a vicious cocker spaniel, named
6	Sadie, and a tiny friendly puppy named Briggs. My cat's name is Pants as in "Fancy Pants". I live
7	right here in Lincolnville and have lived here almost all my life. The only time I did not live in
8	Lincolnville was when I went to Eastern Illinois University for college where I received my B.A.
9	in criminology and criminal justice. Once a Panther, always a Panther!
10	Prior to becoming a patrol officer in 2016, I worked as a security guard at the Lincolnville
11	Community Bank. To be honest, I got bored guarding the bank all the time; there was no action.
12	All I did was sit around and play Wingspan, the board game, all day with my coworkers who
13	considered themselves amateur ornithologists. Have you ever played that wonderful board game?
14	Time really does fly by when you play that game, but I digress.
15	I suppose, in a sense, not having much going on was a good thing but, on the other hand, I
16	was really looking for more excitement in my life - professionally and not as it relates to playing
17	Wingspan! Thus, I became a patrol officer with the Lincoln County Police Department. When
18	I'm not out "cruising for a bruising" as they say, you can find me making guest appearances as a
19	volunteer extra at the Lincolnville Community Theatre; they really do a bang up job out there!
20	Oh yes, I remember that car wreck back in the early morning of June 10, 2023. That night,
21	or early morning I should say, I was working the graveyard shift patrolling around and
22	investigating a possible opossum outbreak in the city when I got a call from dispatch. As soon as

I received the call, I jumped back in my squad car so fast that I think I lost my glasses! Anyways, I drove over to the scene near Veterans Parkway, by the Portillo's, as fast as I could. I do recall it was clear and dry outside; there might have been some mist or dew on the roads, but I think, if there was, it was probably trace amounts.

I knew where I was going, and could see clearly given the moonlight that morning, because I'm very familiar with the Portillo's on Veterans Parkway. I love the famous Italian beef sandwiches, served dry, topped with hot peppers, and I also really enjoy the cheese fries! My gamer friends and I play Wingspan sometimes there too. Also, I've driven Veterans Parkway hundreds of times. The road sort of narrows and curves a bit there and you really should slow down. Most drivers really have to watch their speed on that road because road conditions can change rapidly and sometimes you need to adjust your speed to keep from veering off the road. Driving there can be super tricky if you get distracted.

Anyways, and despite knowing the road very well, I remember almost driving by the entire scene of the collision actually. As I approached from the northbound lane, I saw a dark car off to the left side of the road. I later learned it was a black Honda Civic driven by Charlie Spector. I was surprised when I approached because I also noticed, at the last second, a Lincolnville Public Works vehicle without its flashing lights on the right side of the road. That vehicle should have had its flashers on when working near the side of the road. In fact, I came in pretty fast for the road conditions, and almost ran into the Public Works vehicle myself. Later, the driver of the vehicle told me he had the flashing lights on but had turned them off after the collision. I thought that was odd but continued on with my investigation as time is always of the essence when you first arrive on the scene of any collision.

Next, I parked my car and approached the Honda Civic. There were three individuals just outside the car. I asked whether everyone was alright. Charlie Spector and another passenger, Jessie Finch, indicated they were both fine. The other passenger, Parker Keating, complained of some injuries. One of them, Spector I think it was but I'm only 85% sure, yawned and said everyone was "OK". I know Spector told me that he was really really sorry for everything and just did not see anything coming. He also said "gee, I sure am tired - I should have never been out this late. Those pills didn't work". Spector also said, "I wish I would have moved over, but I think there was a car in the other lane, and everything happened so fast!"

Thankfully, two other officers arrived seconds later, Officers Boe Bob and Billy Bean, and they took the three passengers away from the scene before I had time to look for any injuries or make too much eye contact. EMS showed up and took Parker Keating to the hospital. I was actually relieved by this because blood makes me uneasy and, thankfully, I never saw any blood.

Next, I began my search inside the Honda Civic. I noticed some trash on the floor, an open bag of THC gummies in the back seat, an empty NoDoz caffeine pill bottle, an empty, scrunched can of Red Bull, and a notebook. I don't really remember anything else. However, I memorialized all my findings in my police report that I made shortly thereafter and put the items in properly marked evidence bags. There was also a cellphone on the road just outside of the car. It was powered on. There was a sticker with some kind of dog on it. I put it in an evidence bag too.

OK, where was I? Oh yes, after securing the black Honda Civic, and collecting anything I thought might be relevant to the collision, I again went to talk with the Public Works driver, Wonnie Jones. He seemed like he was still in shock but was insistent that he had his flashing lights on prior to the collision. He said he was working on some routine maintenance on a downed tree or something. After I asked why he turned the lights off, the driver paused, looked at the ground,

and just stared off into the distance. Odd huh?! I asked him to turn the emergency flashing lights back on to prove to me that the lights actually worked. The driver obliged and did show me the lights were working; he kept them on from that point on. I noticed that the truck was the older model, with one oscillating light instead of the newer LED bar lights. These days most of the trucks have switched to much brighter LED lights to increase visibility.

After speaking with the driver, I took some photos of the scene. Specifically, I took the dashboard photo showing that the check engine light was on in the Honda Civic. I took photos of several items within the car as well. Later that day, and after the sun finally came out, I returned to the scene and took photos of the scene found in Exhibit 3. These two photos seemed relevant to me, so I put them in the file.

After taking the photos of the Honda Civic, I went over to my vehicle and worked on my police report. The report reflects a summation of what happened that evening and that is why I'm confused why I'm even here. Can't the judge just read it? How much are they paying you lawyers?

Look, I am not sure what those three young people in that Honda Civic were doing that night, but everyone knows, or should know, that in Illinois you must pull over to the other lane if there are emergency lights flashing. This is known as Scott's Law. You must proceed with caution. If possible, yield the right-of-way by making a full lane change not adjacent to the police or emergency vehicle. If changing lanes would be unsafe or impossible, you must proceed with due caution, reduce your speed, and leave a safe distance until you are past the emergency vehicle. Better yet, though, I always tell people just move over no matter what kind of vehicle if you can; the risk is not worth any reward for staying in your lane. Just slow down and pull over people, it's the law!

After wrapping up my field work at the scene, I didn't ticket anyone. I went back to the station and ran background checks on all the people at the scene.

I am familiar with, and have knowledge about, the following exhibits: Exhibit 1 was the 911 calls made that morning. Exhibit 2 was the Illinois Crash Report generated by me at the conclusion of my investigation. Exhibit 3 was a daytime photo of the roadway at issue. Exhibit 4 was a cellphone obtained at the scene. Exhibit 5 is a copy of my police report. Exhibit 6 is a picture of the Honda Civic's dashboard taken by me after the collision. Exhibits 7, 8, and 15, were all found within the car that morning. Exhibit 9 was the only public record I could find on the subjects of the incident. Exhibit 11 is a Scott's Law poster from the Illinois State Board of Education. Exhibit 12 was the truck involved in the collision. That photo was taken before the collision.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Signed and sworn before me on November 3, 2023.











Incident No.: 44-954346

Date: 06-10-2023 Time 4:13 a.m.

Dispatch: "911. What is the address of your emergency?"

Caller 1: "The middle of nowhere, Illinois. We're on a big road...I see a

sign; it says Veterans Parkway. There's a Portillos. We're about a

mile from the weird gas station down the road."

Dispatch: "What's going on there?"

Caller 1: "We hit something in my Honda. I think we hit a deer or a truck; I

never saw it coming."

Dispatch: "Is anyone injured?"

Caller 1: "Yeah, we are a little banged up actually. My friend Parker doesn't

look too great but that might just be the gum...oh nevermind.

Yeah, Parker isn't doing well. You OK Parker?"

Dispatch: "What's your name?"

Caller 1: "Charlie Spector"

Dispatch: "Okay Charlie. Give me a minute; I'm sending help."

Dispatch: "Lincoln County Fire Department Ambulance 3, Tower 31. You're

due for an MVA on Veterans Parkway in the area of Portillo's Restaurant. Ambulance 3, Tower 31 you're due for the MVA on Veterans Parkway. No specific address given. Three passengers in a Honda. Minor injuries reported. Possible intoxication of an

injured passenger.

AMB 3: "Copy for both AMB 3 and Tower 31. Both units in route."

LCPD K31: "Copy. Officer Kit Mason, LCPD K31 patrol unit here, I'm on it.

Opossum investigation on hold."

Dispatch: "OK, Charlie, the police and EMS are on their way.

Caller 1: "Wow, that was fast, I can hear them now off in the distance. Ok,

thanks you so much!"







Incident No.: 44-954346 Date: 02-21-2023 Time 4:17

Dispatch: "911. What is the address of your emergency?"

Caller 2: "Hello, this is Wonnie Jones. I work for Lincolnville Public Works.

My utility truck just struck here on Veterans Parkway. I was out here running routine maintenance on a power system. Thankfully,

I was inside my truck at the time."

Dispatch: "Is that near the Portillo's?"

Caller 2: "Yes, I'm right down from there."

Dispatch: "Is anyone injured?"

Caller 2: "Maybe, the other car bounced off my truck pretty good but I'm

fine."

Dispatch: "Police and EMS are already on the way. Can you tell me what

happened?"

Caller 2: "I was in my truck filling out some paperwork. I had my emergency

lights flashing. The next thing I know, the other car smashed into the back driver side corner of my truck and spun off. Surprising, my truck didn't really budge much. Thank goodness I was inside

my truck. Wow...I'm still in shock."

Dispatch: "Was there anyone else with you?"

Caller 2: "No, I was working alone tonight. Oh, and by the way, did I

mention I had my emergency lights on when they struck me? I can

promise you that. How could they have missed me?"

Dispatch: "Alright, we can see the police are approaching."

Caller 2: "What? The police? Let me get my...(inaudible) back on

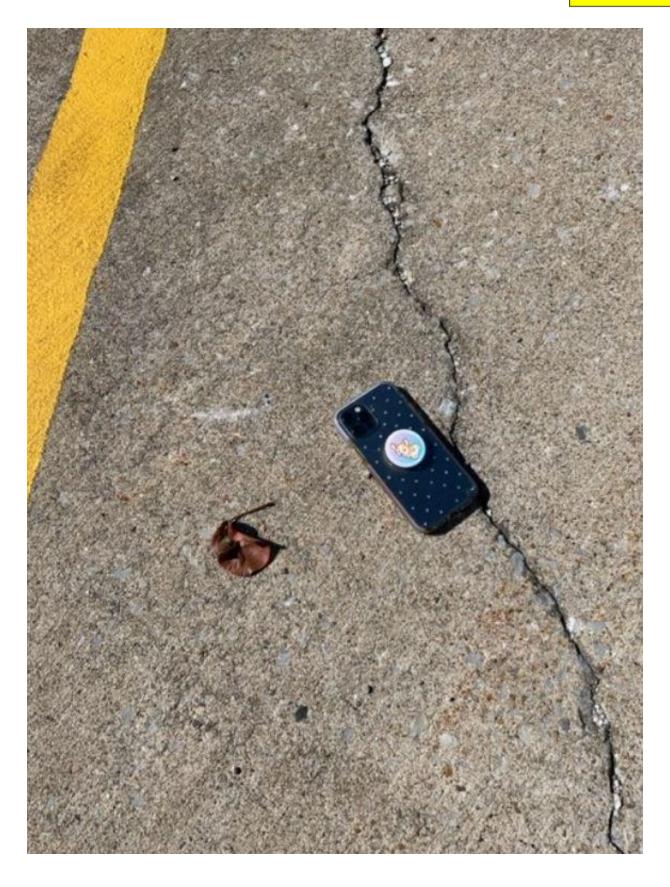
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Incident: Vehicular Collision			
Incident Report No: 2023-280132	Incident Date: 06-10-2023	Incident Time: 4:13 AM	
Reporting Officer: Mason, Kit		Report Date: 06-10-2023	
Incident Location: Veterans Par	rkway, Linconville		POLICE
Individual's Name: Charlie Spe	ctor	ров: 4-29-2005	
Individuals Address: 456 Sawto Lincolnville, IL	ooth Ridge Rd,	Phone: N/A	, v
Employer: Aspiring College S	Student	Work Phone: N/A	

Narrative:

On June 10, 2023, at approximately 4:13 A.M., I, Officer Kit Mason, was on duty patrolling the area investigating recent complaints of a suspected opossum outbreak in Lincolnville when I received a dispatch call to Veterans Parkway, Lincolnville, Illinois. Crash suspect, Charlie SPECTOR, reported a collision with a Lincolnville Public Works vehicle and some injuries were also reported.

When I arrived on the scene of the crash, I noticed one passenger vehicle (2009 black Honda Civic) off the side of the road and a Lincolnville Public Works vehicle on the right hand shoulder of Veterans Parkway. I narrowly avoided the Public Works vehicle, as it did not have any lights flashing at the time. The driver of the Public Works vehicle confirmed turning the emergency lights off after being struck by the Honda Civic. He enthusiastically confirmed he had his emergency lights on prior to the collision.

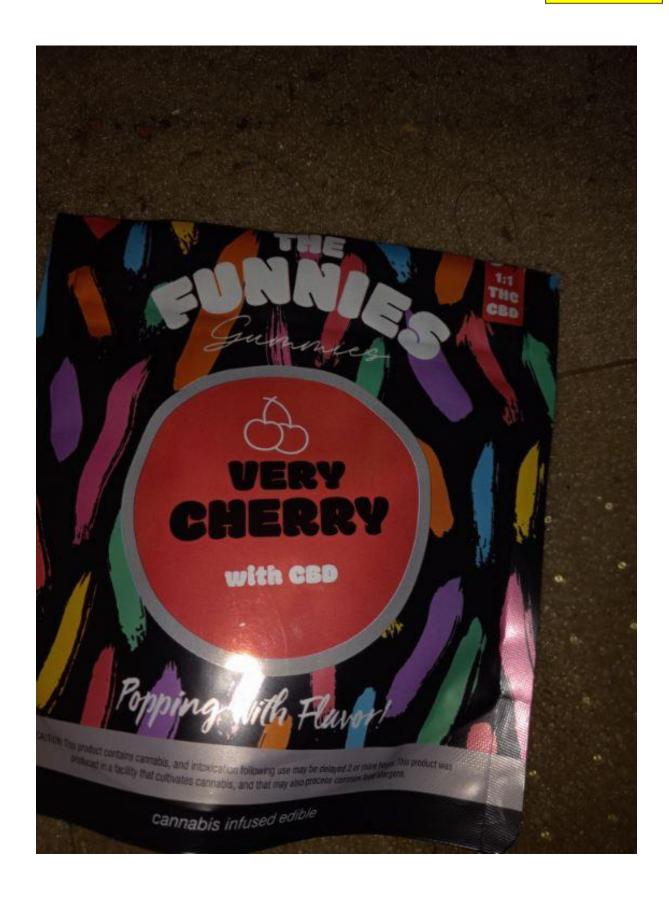
Parker KEATING, Jessie FINCH, and SPECTOR were the passengers in the Honda Civic. SPECTOR was the driver, with KEATING in the front passenger seat and FINCH in the back. KEATING had noticeable injuries from the collision. Before I could render first aid, the Lincolnville EMTs arrived on the scene and took KEATING immediately away from the other two passengers.

Officers Boe Bob and Billy Bean took the two passengers away from the scene and I began looking inside the vehicle. Inside the vehicle, I found an empty can of Red Bull, a package of THC gummies, some No Doze pills, a cell phone, and a lot of old candy bar wrappers. Nothing seemed suspicious about these items, per se, but I collected them anyway. The vehicle did smell like Tiger Balm ointment which I did find odd. I bagged these items and sent them to the Investigations Unit for processing. The site quickly became secured by officers of much higher rank than me so I returned to my nightly patrol.

Reporting Officer: Kit Mason Supervisor: Julio Jones, Bureau Chief









IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LINCOLN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

People of the State of Illinois	Parker Keating, Defendant
Case No: 2022-CF-4392	Certified Copy of Conviction

- I, Olivia Newton Thompson, Circuit Clerk for the County of Lincoln, in the state of Illinois, hereby certify that in my possession in the above referenced case have the following documents and that attached are true and correct copies of those documents kept in the official Court Record in Lincoln County, Illinois.
 - 1. Plea of guilty 1 of 1 pages.
 - 2. Sentencing order 1 of 1 pages.

Dated: March 23, 2023

Olivia Newton Thompson

Olivia Newton Thompson Circuit Clerk Lincoln County, Illinois





IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LINCOLN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,		
V.)	2022-CF-4392
PARKER KEATING,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

PLEA OF GUILTY

THE COURT HAVING ADDRESSED THE DEFENDANT IN OPEN COURT FINDS:

- 1. That the defendant was advised of and understands that the state has the burden of proving him/her guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; that he/she is presumed innocent until proven guilty, the nature of the charge(s) and the possible punishment that might be imposed by the Court, including, if applicable, extended term or consecutive sentences and the right:
 - a. To plead not guilty or to persist in that plea if already made.
 - b. To present evidence in his/her own defense.
 - c. To use the subpoena power of the Court.
 - d. To a jury or a trial before the judge without a jury.
 - e. To confront the witnesses against him/her.
 - f. To counsel and if indigent, to appointed counsel.
 - g. To pursue an appeal within 30 days, and if indigent, to a transcript of all the proceedings in her/her case without charge to assist in the appeal process.
- 2. That a plea agreement as stated to the Court was voluntarily arrived at: the defendant has stipulated that if witnesses were called that they would testify competently to sufficient fact to support a finding of guilty to the offense(s) of: <u>Perjury, Class 3 felony,</u> 10 ILCS 5/29-10.
- 3. That the defendant pleads guilty to the offense(s) stated above, and waives his/her rights as stated a. through g. above. The defendant agrees to the imposition of a specific sentence and waives the right to a pre-sentence investigation or an aggravation and mitigation hearing. Sentence healing continued instanter for: 9:30 a.m, November 3, 2022, Room 303, Lincoln County Judicial Center.

Date: November 2, 2022 Defendant's Signature: Parker Keating



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LINCOLN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
V.)	2022-CF-4392
PARKER KEATING,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

JUDGMENT ORDER

THE COURT HAVING FOUND THE DEFENDANT GUILTY OF: Perjury, 10 ILCS 5/29-10

UPON THE DEFENDANT'S PLEA/ VERDICT OF GUILTY THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE IS HEREBY IMPOSED:

- 1 The defendant is placed on probation through May 3, 2025 - 30 months.
- 2. The defendant must perform 600 hours of public service, to be completed by 2026.
- 3. The defendant is to report to Judge and Court Services.
- 4. The defendant must follow all rules of probation, community service, no further criminal violations, waives personal service of Petition to Revoke.
- 5. Cause continued to 05/3/2025 at 9:00 a.m. in room 303, for completion of terms.

Defendant's Signature: <u>Parker Keating</u>

Judge: <u>Catherine Mayer</u>

Date: November 3, 2022



Crash Retrieval Information Efficacy System

FILE INFORMATION

User Entered VIN	
User	cmgoodman-01
Data Imaging Date	July 25, 2023
Crash Date	June 10, 2023
Company Name	NationalAutoCare, Inc.
Events Recovered	1

Limitations:

The CRIES tool is designed to be compatible with Honda Civics manufactured from 2001-2010. This information is not meant to be conclusive and must be viewed in conjunction with the physical evidence provided at the crash site.

Recorded Crash Events: Pre-Crash Data

Data Source: SRS Unit (Speed, ABS Activity, Stability, Steering, Engine)

Pre-Crash Data (Event Record 1):

Time	Vehicle	ABS	Stability	Steering	Engine
Stamp	Speed	Activity	Control	Input	(RPM)
-5.0	45	Off	On,	0	1100
			Non-engaged		
-4.5	45	Off	On,	0	1100
			Non-Engaged		
-4.0	45	Off	On,	0	1100
			Non-Engaged		
-3.5	45	Off	On,	0	1100
			Non-Engaged		
-3.0	45	Off	On,	0	1100
			Non-Engaged		
-2.5	45	Off	On,	0	1100
			Non-Engaged		
-2.0	40	Off	On, Engaged	125	1000
-1.5	35	Off	On, Engaged	40	500
-1.0	15	On	On, Engaged	30	420

-0.5	5	On	Off,	10	220
			Non-Engaged		
-0.0	0	On	Off,	0	0
			Non-Engaged		

Seatbelt Data:

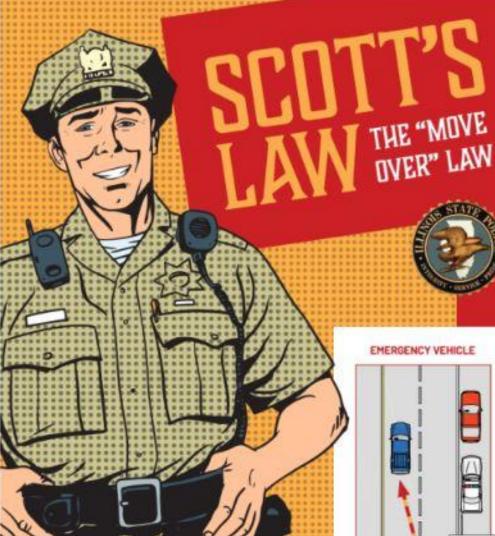
Driver	On
Front Passenger	Off
Rear Passenger (Left)	Off
Rear Passenger (Right)	Not Detected
Rear Passenger (Middle)	Not Detected

Trouble Signals Present: P0637

Bluetooth: Active at -20.0.

Disclaimer of Liability:

The users of the CRIES tool and reviewers of the data provided shall not be in any way liable for damages related to, or arising out of, incorrect data, misrepresentation, and/or misinterpretation of software or data. NationalAutoCare, Inc. expressly disclaims all liability for incidental, consequential, special, or punitive damages arising out of or related to the use of CRIES software or data.

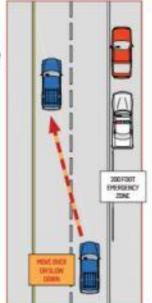


ROTECT

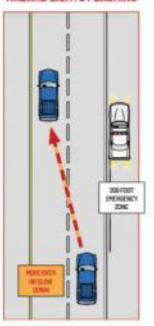


Illinois State Board of Education





HAZARD LIGHTS FLASHING



WHAT IS SCOTT'S LAW?

625 ILCS 5/11-907(c)

Scott's Law was named after Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department who was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver while assisting at a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway. Scott's Law mandates that upon approaching any stationary vehicle with flashing emergency lights, including commercial trucks and cars, all approaching vehicles shall:

- reduce speed
- change lanes if possible; and
- proceed with caution.

IF IT'S FLASHING, MOVE OVER!

NOTICE

MOVEOVER-SLOWDOWN FOR STOPPED **EMERGENCY OR** MAINTENANCE VEHICLES IT'S THE LAW



SAWTOOTH GAS

Price & Quality





