#### **FEBRUARY 12, 2002**

#### METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D. Austin Sybert v. Dr. Amelia Roush

Page 1 Page 3 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS 1 1 - - - - -2 OF LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO 2 (Thereupon, Plaintiff's Deposition 3 3 Exhibit 1 was marked for 4 AUSTIN SYBERT, et al., 4 purposes of identification.) 5 5 Plaintiffs, - - - - -6 Case No. CI020000331 6 METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D., a witness herein, VS DR. AMELIA ROUSH, et al., 7 7 called for examination, as provided by the Ohio 8 Defendants. 8 Rules of Civil Procedure, being by me first duly 9 Q ---sworn, as hereinafter certified, was deposed and 10 VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF 10 said as follows: 11 METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D. 11 EXAMINATION OF METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D. 12 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2002 12 BY MR. BECKER: 13 MR. BECKER: Let the record reflect - - - - -13 14 Deposition of METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D., a 14 that this is the discovery deposition of 15 Witness herein, called by counsel on behalf of 15 Dr. Duchon, who has been identified as an expert 16 the Plaintiff for examination under the statute, 16 on behalf of Dr. Roush. 17 taken before me, Vivian L. Gordon, a Registered 17 Q. Good morning, doctor. 18 Diplomate Reporter and Notary Public in and for 18 Good morning. Α. 19 the State of Ohio, pursuant to agreement of 19 Q. Would you tell us your full name, 20 counsel, at the offices of Bonezzi, Switzer, 20 nlease. 21 Murphy & Polito, 1400 Leader Building, 21 It's Method A. Duchon, D-U-C-H-O-N. Α. 22 Cleveland, Ohio, commencing at 10:00 o'clock 22 Q. Doctor, showing you what's been, just 23 a.m. on the day and date above set forth. been marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, would you 23 24 take a look at that and identify it for us, 24 25 25 please. Page 2 Page 4 APPEARANCES: It's a copy of my current curriculum 1 Α. 2 vitae. On behalf of the Plaintiff 3 Becker & Mishkind Co., L.P.A., by 3 Are there any publications where you Q. MICHAEL F. BECKER, ESQ. 4 have authored or co-authored that do not appear 4 Becker Havnes Building 134 Middle Avenue 5 5 on that vitae? Elyria, Ohlo 44035 A. No. sir. 6 550-323-7070 6 On behalf of the Defendant St. Luke's Hospital 7 Q. And is that, in fact, current? (By phone) 8 Α. Yes. 8 Robinson, Curphey & O'Connell, by 9 E. THOMAS MAGUIRE, ESQ. Q. All right. Doctor, we are here to 9 2332 Twin Eagles Drive 10 discover your opinions that you are going to be Traverse City, MI 49686 231-947-5314 rendering at the time of trial in this matter, 11 10 11 On behalf of the Defendant Dr. Amelia Roush 12 and because it is the rule in Lucas County, you Bonezzi, Switzer, Murphy & Polito, by DONALD H. SWITZER, ESQ. 13 have not generated a report; is that fair? 12 1400 Leader Building 14 A. That's correct. 13 526 Superior Avenu 15 Q. Do you have any notes that you have Cleveland, Ohio 44114 generated as a result of your review of all the 216-875-2767 16 15 ALSO PRESENT: 17 materials, including the depositions? Tyler ]. Dorsey, video technician 18 Α. No, sir. 16 17 19 Q. Is it your practice not to generate . . . . . 20 notes? 18 19 21 That is my practice. Α. 20 22 Q. All right. What I need to know, 21 22 then, doctor, what areas are you going to be 23 23 24 speaking to; standard of care, causation, life 24 25 expectancy? If you could help me out, then I 25

1 (Pages 1 to 4)

Page 5	Page
1 can are you speaking to the standard of care	1 A. No, sir.
2 of Dr. Roush?	2 Q. Did Dr. Marlowe know that he was on
3 A. That's correct.	3 call?
4 Q. Are you speaking to the standard of	4 A. Yes.
5 care of any of the nurses?	5 Q. And that's based on your thorough
6 A. Only insofar as I would respond to	6 review of his deposition?
7 questions if they were asked.	7 A. It's based on the fact when he was
8 Q. Are you speaking to the issue of	8 called, he got up and came to the hospital and
9 causation?	9 cared for the patient.
10 A. No, sir.	10 Q. Well, when a physician is on call,
11 Q. Is it clear from your review of this	11 they should know so before they are contacted by
12 chart that this child was asphyxiated?	12 a physician or by a hospital; correct?
13 A. I said I was not addressing	13 A. No, sir.
14 causation.	14 Q. So have you ever covered call for one
15 Q. So you don't have an opinion whether	15 of your colleagues at a hospital?
16 or not this child was asphyxiated?	16 A. Almost every day.
17 A. I will not render an opinion, no.	17 Q. All right. But regarding night
18 Q. You are a maternal fetal specialist;	18 call
19 correct?	
20 A. Yes, sir.	1 / 1
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
<ul><li>22 perinatologist; correct?</li><li>23 A. That's correct.</li></ul>	22 A. Yes, sir.
	23 Q. Do you have the understanding that
24 Q. Have you in the past rendered an 25 opinion on causation in a situation where a baby	24 Dr. Marlowe knew before the phone call from 25 St. Luke's Hospital nurses that he was on night
Page 6	Page
	i age
1 was brain damaged?	1 call?
<ol> <li>was brain damaged?</li> <li>A. In general, no.</li> </ol>	1 call?
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2 (Pages 5 to 8)

Page 11 Page 9 fulfilled his duties as a covering physician. 1 severe abdominal pain, that the patient is 1 2 Q. When Dr. Roush was called at - well, 2 thrashing in bed, and we have sudden 3 what is your understanding as to the first time 3 nonreassuring fetal monitoring strips Dr. Roush was called on the day of delivery? simultaneously occurring with this acute 4 4 5 What time? 5 abdominal pain, should that -- and for that A. It was approximately 3:20. 6 going on for the last 12 to 15 minutes --6 Q. And what is your understanding as to 7 assuming that to be true, should that have 7 8 who called and what the purpose of the call was? connoted to Dr. Roush that we very well may have 8 0 A. She was called to inform -- be 9 an obstetrical emergency at hand? MR. SWITZER: Let me object to the 10 informed by one of the nurses at the hospital 10 that she had a patient there. hypothetical. Go ahead. 11 11 12 Q. All right. And did she then have a 12 A. Not necessarily. 13 responsibility at that time when she first had Q. Would it have been reasonable for 13 contact with the nurse, which was approximately 14 Dr. Roush, assuming that hypothetical actually 14 15 3:15 or 3:20, to let the nurse know that someone 15 took place, for Dr. Roush to make the assumption 16 else was covering for her? 16 that we have an obstetrical emergency of either A. She did. an abruption or a ruptured uterus? Would it 17 17 18 Q. All right. And what is your have been reasonable, given that hypothetical, 18 19 understanding as to what she said to the nurse for her to make such an assumption? 19 20 at that 3:15 or 3:20 phone call? 20 A. No, sir, that would not be A. She said she specifically said 21 reasonable. 21 22 Dr. Marlowe was covering and that the patient 22 Q. Why? 23 should be looked at and an IV started, and Ancef 23 A. Because you have a nurse 24 administered. 24 communicating some things; you're at home in 25 Q. And for Dr. Roush to say to the nurse 25 bed. You do not make those assumptions. What Page 10 Page 12 at 3:15 or 3:20 that Dr. Marlowe was covering, Dr. Roush should have done and did, in fact, do 2 what should that have meant to the obstetrical 2 was tell him to call the house doctor and call 3 3 Dr. Marlowe. That was her responsibility and nurse --4 4 that's what she did. A. I don't know. Q. -- the phrase, Dr. Marlowe was 5 Q. It's your understanding that 5 covering? 6 6 Dr. Roush at that 3:40 phone call told the obstetrical nurse to call Dr. Marlowe and to 7 A. In general, it meant if there were 7 8 further developments, Dr. Marlowe would be 8 call the house doctor? Q called. 9 A. As best I can determine, yes. 10 When was the next time that Dr. Roush 10 Q. Would that have been reasonable Q. was called relative to this patient? conduct on her part, assuming she did that? 11 11 12 A. 3:40. 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. And what is your understanding as to 13 Q. Why? who made the call and the purpose of the call? 14 14 Α. Because she, at that point in time, A. The nurse called Dr. Roush again to 15 was disabled in terms of caring for patients in 15 16 say there were changes in the patient's status. the intrapartum period and she had made coverage 16 17 Q. What is your understanding as to what 17 arrangements and she was activating those 18 exactly was said to Dr. Roush at that 3:40 phone coverage arrangements. 18 19 call by the nurse relative to the patient's 19 Q. Why would it have been reasonable for 20 status? 20 Dr. Roush in that phone call to also apprise the 21 That they were having trouble finding 21 nurse to call the house doctor, Dr. Vilela? Α. 22 the fetal heart and the woman was experiencing 22 A. She must have appreciated they hadn't 23 abdominal pain. 23 done that yet. 24 Q. Assuming that the nurse made it clear 24 Q. But why would that have been 25 to Dr. Roush at 3:40 that we have unremitting, 25 reasonable, given my hypothetical fact

3 (Pages 9 to 12)

	Page 13		Page 1
1	situation?	1	bit? I mean, you have a number of issues there.
2	A. He's right down the hall.	2	Q. Okay.
3	Q. If, in fact, Dr. Roush told the nurse	3	A. I've testified should a cesarean have
4	to not only call Marlowe, but to call Vilela,	4	been done for a patient, and the answer is yes.
5	would that have, in essence strike that.	5	You know, an abruption, the answer would be no.
6	Let's start over.	6	A ruptured uterus
7	Assuming that Dr. Vilela was	7	Q. Let me help. Let me start over.
8	contacted by the nurse at 3:40, do you have an	8	Relative to your testimony on behalf
9	opinion as to what likely would have occurred,	9	of the patient, that is the plaintiff
10	if you have an opinion?	10	A. Yes.
11	A. I do not have an opinion, no.	11	Q have you ever testified or given,
12	Q. Okay. Have you seen any type of a	12	written a report, given a deposition or actually
13	call sheet that reflects whether Dr. Marlowe	13	testified in trial where it was your opinion
14	was, in fact, on call for Dr. Roush for the	14	that the clinical circumstances demanded an
15	evening or morning in question?	15	emergency cesarean section and the same was not
16	A. I have not seen it.	16	accomplished?
17	Q. Do you know whether a call sheet	17	A. Yes.
18	actually is in existence today?	18	Q. All right. Let's explore that. How
19	A. I do not know.	19	many times have you done that?
20	Q. Let's talk a little bit, doctor,	20	A. Twice.
21	about your medical/legal work. It's been a few	21	Q. Okay. Did either one of those
22	years since I have taken your deposition.	22	involve either an abruption of the placenta
23	What in the last few years, how	23	and/or a ruptured uterus?
24	many cases are you reviewing?	24	A. No, sir.
			•
	A. I may review between 10 and 20 cases	25	O. What did they involve? Just alarming
25	A. I may review between 10 and 20 cases	25	Q. What did they involve? Just alarming
	A. I may review between 10 and 20 cases Page 14	25	Q. What did they involve? Just alarming
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25	Page 14		Page <sup>-</sup>
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4 (Pages 13 to 16)

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	Page 17		Page 1
1	I know it happened. It involved a law firm in	1	highlighting it than that?
2	Washington, D.C. That's the best I can do at	2	A. Not that I recall.
3	the moment.	3	Q. Okay. Any other stickies within her
4	Q. You don't remember the attorney's	4	deposition?
5	name or the plaintiff's name?	5	A. No, sir.
6	A. No.	6	Q. The next deposition, please identify
7	MR. BECKER: All right, doctor,	7	it.
8	that's all I have.	8	A. The deposition of Dr. Elliott.
9	MR. SWITZER: Tom, any questions?	9	Q. All right.
10	EXAMINATION OF METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D.	10	A. Phoenix, Arizona.
11	BY MR. MAGUIRE:	11	Q. Do you know Dr. Elliott?
12	Q. Are these the extent of the opinions	12	A. We may have been introduced at a
	you are going to state at trial, doctor?	13	meeting, but I don't think so.
14	A. Insofar as I can say, yes, although I	14	Q. Okay. You have one or two stickles
15	can't necessarily tell you what I may or may not	15	on the deposition?
16		16	A. Just one.
17	MR. SWITZER: 1 will ask him	17	Q. All right. What page is that on?
18	questions about Dr. Elliott's opinions.	18	A. It is page, around page 35, 36, 37.
19	MR. MAGUIRE: Okay. I have no	19	This is a condensed deposition.
20	further questions. Thank you.	20	Q. Okay. And what is the significance
21	MR. BECKER: Well, let me, given	21	of those pages towards your opinions you are
22	Don's comment	22	going to render at trial?
23	MR. SWITZER: I could just tell you	23	A. They are the criticisms of Dr. Roush.
24		24	Q. Okay. And what is your comment on
25	MR. BECKER: Well, you know what, he		that?
	Page 18		Page 2
1	Page 18	1	Page 2
1 2	Page 18 did have a couple stickies on some depos and I	1	Page 2 A. I think they are not legitimate
2	Page 18 did have a couple stickies on some depos and I forgot to cover that.	2	Page 2 A. I think they are not legitimate criticisms.
	Page 18 did have a couple stickies on some depos and I forgot to cover that. EXAMINATION OF METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D.		Page 2 A. I think they are not legitimate criticisms. Q. Okay. And the basis of that opinion
2 3 4	Page 18 did have a couple stickies on some depos and I forgot to cover that. EXAMINATION OF METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D. BY MR. BECKER:	2 3 4	Page 2 A. I think they are not legitimate criticisms. Q. Okay. And the basis of that opinion that they are not legitimate criticisms?
2 3 4 5	Page 18 did have a couple stickies on some depos and I forgot to cover that. EXAMINATION OF METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D. BY MR. BECKER: Q. Doctor, I did have an opportunity	2 3 4 5	Page 2 A. I think they are not legitimate criticisms. Q. Okay. And the basis of that opinion that they are not legitimate criticisms? A. Based on my training and experience
2 3 4 5 6	Page 18 did have a couple stickies on some depos and I forgot to cover that. EXAMINATION OF METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D. BY MR. BECKER: Q. Doctor, I did have an opportunity before the deposition started to look at your	2 3 4 5 6	Page 2 A. I think they are not legitimate criticisms. Q. Okay. And the basis of that opinion that they are not legitimate criticisms? A. Based on my training and experience as a practicing OB/GYN doctor, I do not think
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5 (Pages 17 to 20)

Page 21	Page 23
1 conversation that we were talking about earlier	1 the patient's clinical condition for the last 18
2 between her and Dr. Roush?	2 or 20 minutes. That should have connoted to
3 A. This is commenting on the	3 Dr. Roush that we likely have an obstetrical
4 conversation between herself and Dr. Roush.	4 emergency and she should have instructed the
5 Q. Okay. Have we covered all the	5 nurse to begin the process of transporting the
6 depositions that have stickles on them?	6 patient to the operating room and calling the
7 A. Yes, sir.	7 appropriate personnel.
8 MR. BECKER: All right. Don, is	8 Do you have an opinion whether that
9 there you were going to share with me what	9 is reasonable or unreasonable?
10 his opinions were relative to Dr. Elliott or	10 MR. SWITZER: Let me just object to
11 has he already commented on it?	11 the hypothetical. Go ahead, doctor.
12 MR. SWITZER: Well, yeah, I was going	12 A. Yes, I have an opinion.
13 to ask him about Dr. Elliott's opinion about the	13 Q. And that is?
14 VBAC issue, for example, and about I think	14 A. That would be unreasonable.
15 Dr. Elliott had an opinion about saying words to	15 Q. And what's the basis of that opinion?
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
<ul><li>16 the effect that Dr. Roush should have ordered</li><li>17 the patient to the OR.</li></ul>	<ul><li>16 A. That from one's home, one does not</li><li>17 make those kinds of statements to nurses, one</li></ul>
	18 does not say take the patient to the OR or do
19 them or not. Those were criticisms by	19 everything else.
20 Dr. Elliott, as I recall. 21 MR. BECKER: Okay. Relative to the	20 As I previously stated, Dr. Roush had
	21 an obligation to say, notify Dr. Marlowe, notify
22 VBAC, are we talking about informed consent?	22 the house doctor that was done; that was her
23 MR. SWITZER: You are asking me? I'm	23 responsibility to come and evaluate the
24 sorry, I couldn't see you. I'm getting old.	24 patient.
25 He said it was irrelevant, but he did	25 Q. All right. Did you and I didn't
Page 22	Page 24
· ·	
i say something about that there was a he felt	1 see in your file, doctor did you have an
<ol> <li>say something about that there was a he felt</li> <li>there was no documented informed consent, as I</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>see in your file, doctor did you have an</li> <li>opportunity to look at St. Luke's Hospital's</li> </ol>
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Page 25          1       AFFIDAVIT         2       I have read the foregoing transcript from         3       page 1 through 24 and note the following         4       corrections:         5       PAGE LINE         7       8         9       10         11       12         13       14         15       16         17       METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D.         18       Subscribed and sworn to before me this         19       day of , 2002.         21       Notary Public         22       My commission expires         24       25	Page 27           I         INDEX           2         EXAMINATION OF METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D.           3         BY MR. BECKER:           4         BY MR. MAGUIRE:           5         BY MR. BECKER:           6         7           7         Exhibit 1 was marked.           8         9           10         11           12         13           14         15           16         17           18         19           20         21           23         23           24         25
Page 26         1       CERTIFICATE         2       State of Ohio,         3       SS:         Country of Cuyahoga.         6       I, Vivlan L. Gordon, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, dufy commissioned and         9       qualified, do hereby certify that the within named METHOD A. DUCHON, M.D. was by me first         10       dufy sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the cause         11       aforesaid; that the testimony as above set forth was by me reduced to stenotypy, afterwards         12       transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony.         1       Lo further certify that this deposition         14       was taken at the time and place specified and was completed without adjournment; that 1 am not a a cellative or attorney for either party or otherwise interested in the event of this         15       action. I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a         17       contract as defined in Civii Rule 28 (D).         18       IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland,         0 Ohio, on this 13 th day of February, 2002.       Matheta Summa         21       Matheta Gordon, Notary Public Within and for the State of Ohio         23       Within and for the State of Ohio         Mytan L. G	

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