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1	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2	STARK COUNTY, OHIO
3	LEONA G. SHAFFER, EXECUTRIX, etc., et al.,
4	Plaintiffs,
5	-vs- JUDGE HAAS CASE NO. 2002 CV 1940
6	R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O.,
7	et al.,
8	Defendants.
9	
lO	Deposition of <u>R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O.</u> , taken
11	as if upon cross-examination before Judith A.
12	Gage, a Certified Realtime Reporter and Notary
13	Public within and for the State of Ohio, at the
14	offices of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs,
15	4518 Fulton Avenue, N.W., Canton, Ohio, at 3:00
16	p.m. on Monday, October 28, 2002, pursuant to
17	notice and/or stipulations of counsel, on behalf
18 -	of the Plaintiffs in this cause.
19	
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18	On behalf of the Defendant	
19	Gross.	
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l		R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O., of lawful age,
2		called by the Plaintiffs for the purpose of
3		cross-examination, as provided by the Rules of
4		Civil Procedure, being by me first duly sworn, as
5		hereinafter certified, deposed and said as
6		follows:
7		CROSS-EXAMINATION OF R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O.
8		BY MR. CONWAY:
9	Q.	Hi, doctor. My name is Tom Conway. I represent
10-		William Guthrie's family in this case. We're
11		going to be taking your deposition. Would you
12		please state your full name for the record,
13		spelling your last name for the court reporter?
14	Α.	Yes. It's Richard Kirk, K-i-r-k, Elliott.
15		E-l-l-i-o-t-t.
16	Q.	And your date of birth?
17	A.	Is November 4, 1948.
18	Q.	You have your attorney seated over here; I assume
19		you had an opportunity to meet with him prior to
20		this deposition?
21 -	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	Do you know what a deposition is?
23	A.	Yes.
24	Q.	I'm going to be asking you questions regarding
25		your involvement in this case. I would like to

		5
1		emphasize that you should not answer any question
2		that you don't understand, okay?
3	A.	Yes.
4	Q.	If you don't understand a question, somehow
5		indicate that to me and I will be glad to
6		rephrase it or repeat it.
7	A.	Okay.
8	Q.	But if you do answer a question I'm going to
9		assume and rely upon the fact that you understood
10		it. Is that fair?
11	A.	Yes.
12	Q.	At any time you want to take a break and talk to
13		your attorney, feel free to do so.
14	A.	Yes.
15	Q.	And any time you want to add, subtract, delete,
16		modify anything that you have said previously in
17		the deposition, let us know and we can go on the
18		record and let the court reporter know what you
19		want to say, all right?
20	А.	Okay.
21	Q.	And you understand that this deposition which is
22		being taken under oath has the same effect as if
23		you were in front of a judge and jury testifying.
24		You understand that?
25	Α.	Yes.

		6
1	Q.	I would like to take you back to May of 2000. At
2		that time, you were a gastroenterologist,
3		correct?
4	A.	Yes.
5	Q	And you still are?
6	A.	Yes.
7	Q.	You had a patient by the name of William Guthrie,
8		is that correct?
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	Going back to, I believe May 23 of 2000, was that
11		the first time that you had an opportunity to be
12		in contact with William Guthrie?
13	A.	Yes.
14	Q.	And you were requested to perform a
15		gastroenterology consult on William Guthrie,
16		correct?
17	А.	Yes.
18	Q.	What you may want to do is make sure you answer
19		out loud yes or no, and give yourself a second
20		after I finish speaking before you give the
21		answer. Okay?
22	A.	Okay.
23	Q.	That way she can take it down a little bit
24		easier.
25		William Guthrie would have been your patient

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1		for purposes of doing the EGD, which you
2		performed on May 24, as well as a colonoscopy
3		that you performed on May 25, is that correct?
4	А.	Yes.
5	Q.	He would have been considered your patient during
6		the postoperative period as well, correct, from
7		those two procedures?
8	A.	As a consultant I was asked to perform those two
9		procedures at the request of the referring
10		physicians. As an in-patient, many times I may
11		not follow him postoperatively. The primary care
12		physician may assume the care after that.
13	Q.	Okay. Someone has to have, someone has to be
14		providing care and treatment to a patient post
15	A.	Right.
16	Q.	operatively, correct?
17	Α.	Right.
18	Q.	In this particular case, was it your
19		responsibility or the attending physician's
20		responsibility to follow Mr. Guthrie post
21		colonoscopy?
22		MR. MOSS: Object to the form.
23		MR. FRASURE: Do you understand
24		the question?
25		THE WITNESS: No, I don't.

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1	A.	Could you rephrase it?
2	Q.	You performed a colonoscopy on William Guthrie on
3		May 25, correct?
4	А.	Yes.
5	Q.	Did you have any postoperative responsibility
6		regarding William Guthrie?
7	А.	Yes.
8	Q.	Okay. Tell me in detail what your postoperative
9		responsibilities were with regard to following
10		William Guthrie after that May 25 colonoscopy.
11	Α.	Following the colonoscopy was communicating
12		first of all, dictating a report of what the
13		procedure entailed, communicating the findings
14		back to the physician who requested I perform it
15		for them, and getting my recommendations on diet.
16		And in this particular case, we discussed whether
17		to continue aspirin or Plavix or neither as far
1.8		as anti-coagulants, since ten polyps were removed
19		at the time of the colonoscopy. And the primary
20		care physician, primary physician, Dr. Gross,
21		related back that he would follow the patient
22		thereafter.
23	Q.	Fair enough. So your responsibilities as the
24		consulting gastroenterologist in this case were
25		to perform the procedures

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		1	Α.	Right.
		2	Q.	that you felt were medically indicated,
		3		correct?
		4	А.	Correct.
		5	Q.	And in this case you felt both of these
		б		procedures were medically indicated, correct?
		7	A.	Correct.
		8	Q.	The EGD, which is a for the record?
		9	A.	Upper GI endoscopy.
	1	0	Q.	Right. Which was performed on May 24, 2000, and
	1	.1		the colonoscopy which was performed on May 25,
	1	.2		2000, correct?
ann Na San	1	.3	Α.	Yes.
the Adapt	1	4	Q.	And then it was your responsibility to
	1	.5		communicate the findings of both of those
	1	6		procedures to, in this particular case Dr. Gross,
	1	.7		correct?
	1	.8	A.	Yes.
	1	.9	Q.	And in fact, you did send Dr. Gross the surgical
	2	0		op notes for both of those procedures, is that
	2	1		correct?
	2	2	A.	Yes.
	2	3	Q.	Going to the EGD with biopsy that you performed
·	2	4		on May 24, on what date did you send a copy of
, T	2	5		the results of that procedure? What date did you

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1		send that report to Dr. Gross?
2	A.	On the 24th. The same day it was performed.
3	Q.	In fact, you dictated it and it was transcribed
4		and you sent it out on May 24, correct?
5	A.	The hospital sent it out, since it was an
6		in-patient procedure.
7	Q.	And then going to the colonoscopy?
8	А.	The same.
9	Q.	Okay. So your report was dictated, transcribed
10		on May 25, correct?
11	А.	Correct.
12	Q.	And would have been sent out to the hospital by
13		Dr. Gross, correct?
14	Α.	Yes. In addition to personal telephone call,
15		too.
16	Q.	Did you place a telephone call to Dr. Gross'
17		office or Dr. Gross on May 24 and May 25, do you
18		recall?
19	·A.	I told the hospital operator to have him paged.
20		I'm not sure where he was located. But he
21		returned
22		MR. FRASURE: Which day are you
23		talking about?
24		THE WITNESS: After the
25		colonoscopy.

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l	Q.	Did you talk with Dr. Gross after the May 24 EGD?
2	A.	I don't recall. I called the daughter, I know
3		for sure, after the EGD and discussed it with
4		her. I'm not sure I discussed it with Dr. Gross
5		following the EGD because our previous discussion
6		prior to the EGD after I did the consultation was
7		that we would start with the EGD; if we found a
8		bleeding site, an ulcer bleeding or something
9		actively bleeding in the stomach we would stop
10		there. If we didn't, we would proceed on with
11		the colonoscopy.
12	Q.	Following the colonoscopy, you did in fact talk
13		with Dr. Gross?
1.4	Α.	Yes, I did.
15	Q.	Would that be your standard custom and practice,
16		to talk with the referring physician after a
17		procedure such as that?
18	Α.	Yes.
19	Q.	Do you recall what you told Dr. Gross and what
20		his response was on May 25 following the
21		colonoscopy?
22	Α.	I informed him of both the results of the EGD and
23		the colonoscopy, even though I didn't know
24		whether he had the written report yet, but what I
25		had found.
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I told him that I recommended -- we had 1 2 discussed the fact that ten polyps were removed. 3 I told him my recommendations typically are not to take aspirin or Plavix for two weeks after 4 5 removal of polyps, but in this particular case he knows the patient better than I, all of his other 6 medical problems and his recent stroke, and I was 7 8 going to leave it up to his judgment. If he felt 9 it was absolutely necessary that these be 10 continued, there would be an increased risk of bleeding complications. And he felt that 11 12 absolutely both should be continued because he 13 felt that it was just too dangerous to stop and that the patient should be on a soft diet. 14 Basically at this point, I didn't feel that 15 16 the patient should undergo a small bowel x-ray, 17 that was the next step if the hemoglobin 18 continued to drop despite removal of these ten 19 polyps, and we had discussed the fact that he has 20 a stricture in the left side of the colon with 21 extensive diverticulosis, and I recommended that

normally in this situation a barium enema x-ray a couple months later be performed to get another view of the colon since it was difficult to see some areas, but given this gentleman's poor

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1		condition, I would leave that up to Dr. Gross. I
2		didn't know what his survival was going to be as
3		far as his heart and lungs and his stroke and his
4		other situation.
5	Q.	So from your perspective, after dictating your
6		report, you communicated the results
7	A.	Yes.
8	Q.	of your procedures to Dr. Gross, and you made
9		your recommendations or gave your input for
10		whatever weight he wanted to give it, correct?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	Following your conversation with Dr. Gross on May
13		25, did you have any further involvement with
14		William Guthrie as far as rendering any care and
15		treatment to him, seeing him postoperatively,
16		anything?
17	Α.	On the 25th, which was a Thursday, the
18		colonoscopy was done.
19		On Friday morning, I was in the hospital and
20		I dropped by the rehab unit to see if everything
21		was going well and I was told by the nursing
22		staff it was. There were no problems. And so I
23		didn't see him after that.
24	Q.	Did you chart a note for the 26th?
25	Α.	No, I didn't.

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1	Q.	And you would not have had direct contact with
2		him on the 26th, correct?
3	Α.	No. I saw him in the room.
4	Q.	Did you talk to him?
5	А.	I talked to him, examined his abdomen, and I
6		wasn't impressed that there were any problems.
7	Q.	The original reason you became involved as a
8		consultant was that they were trying to rule out
9		a GI bleed, correct?
10	Α.	He had been bleeding and his stools were
11		repeatedly positive and his hemoglobin was
12		dropping, and so they asked me to determine the
13		source of his gastrointestinal bleeding.
14	Q.	And were you able to determine it?
-15	A.	And try to do something therapeutically to get it
16		to stop.
17	Q.	Were you able to determine the source of his GI
18		bleed?
19	A.	He had several possibilities of occult bleeding,
20		not active bleeding. When I scoped him he had
21		pretty severe gastritis, although no bright red
22		bleeding. He had ten polyps in the colon that we
23		removed, any of which could have caused
24		intermittent bleeding, but they were not bleeding
25		at the time I did the scope test.

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1	Q.	So you didn't determine any direct cause of
2		bleeding, is that correct?
3	A.	I didn't see any active bleeding at the time that
4		I scoped him.
5	Q.	So you were not able to determine definitively
6		the cause of his bleeding, correct?
7	A.	No.
8	Q.	Correct?
9	A.	Correct.
10	Q.	And I'm not saying that to be rude, but sometimes
11	si da wenne da angla	"no" gets interpreted differently.
12	A.	Right.
13	Q.	Colonoscopy strike that.
14		A colonoscopy carries with it a recognized
15		complication or risk of perforation, correct?
16	Α.	Correct.
17	Q.	And different parts of the colon can become
18		perforated, correct?
19	А.	Correct.
20	Q.	In this particular case it was the sigmoid colon,
21		correct?
22	А.	Yes.
23	Q.	Where does the sigmoid colon rate as far as the
24		amount of times that that gets perforated
25		compared to other parts of the colon? Is that

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1		one of the more common areas of perforation or
2		rarer areas of perforation?
3	Α.	I'm not sure as far as the frequency. The right
4		side of the colon is the thinnest part, so I
5		would think that that would probably carry a
6		greater risk, although the sigmoid colon also
7	Q.	Perforated sigmoid colon is a recognized risk of
8		a colonoscopy procedure, correct?
9	А.	Correct.
10	Q.	That would have been explained to the patient and
11		his family, correct?
12	А.	Correct.
13	Q.	Do you recall when you were dealing with William
14		Guthrie as a patient that his daughter, Leona
15		Shaffer, was involved in different discussions?
16		Do you recall that?
17	A.	I don't understand the question.
18	Q.	Okay. Obviously, you would have dealt with
19	-	William Guthrie verbally.
20	Α.	Right.
21	Q.	Do you recall dealing with any of his family
22		members verbally?
23	A.	Yes.
24	Q.	Do you recall the names of those family members?
25	Α.	Yes, Leona Shaffer, because she was power of

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l		attorney on the chart.
2	Q.	So in explaining the risks of the procedure to
3		William Guthrie, you would have also included
4		Leona Shaffer in that conversation, correct?
5	A.	Yes. It was by telephone with the daughter.
6		Leona Shaffer.
7	Q.	A perforation can occur during the actual
8		colonoscopy procedure, correct?
9	A.	Correct.
10	Q.	And that's what we refer to as a perforation
11		during the procedure. Is there such a thing as a
12		delayed perforation resulting from a colonoscopy?
13	A.	There can be a very rare incidence of delayed
14		perforation.
15	Q.	And what occurs in that type of situation?
16		MR. FRASURE: Just in general,
17	-	you're asking?
18	Α.	In general, I would think the same sort of
19		symptoms that would occur during an acute
20		perforation while the procedure was underway.
21		Typically, a perforation is one of the more
22		catastrophic complications of a procedure, and
23		typically if a perforation did occur, there would
24		be leakage of air and fluid or stool outside the
25		colon and cause severe infection of the abdominal

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1		cavity. Typically, within 12 to 24 hours, I
2		would expect a very rapid deterioration in the
3		patient's condition, fever and abdominal pain,
4		usually leading to sepsis to shock to death
5		fairly quickly, within usually 24 hours if it is
6		not treated.
7	Q.	And that would follow from an acute perforation
8		during the procedure, correct?
9		MR. MOSS: Objection.
10	Α.	I would think it would follow either one.
11		Whenever a perforation occurs in the intestinal
12		tract, the same sequence of events typically
13		follows.
14	Q.	Physically, what happens when a part of the colon
15		such as the sigmoid colon is perforated?
16	Α.	As I described a moment ago, there would be a
17		leakage of air and fluid or fecal material
18		outside the colon.
19	Q.	How does the actual perforation occurs? What
20		causes the perforation?
21		MR. FRASURE: On a delayed versus
22		an acute?
23		MR. CONWAY: No. Just on an
24		acute perforation.
25	Α.	Acute perforation can occur either directly while

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1		you are removing a polyp, or it can occur by
2		introducing the scope, the tip of the scope, or
3		it could be due to air insufflation of the colon
4		in an area that is a already weakened from some
5		other pathology.
6	Q.	So you could cause a perforation by putting air
7		in a part of colon that is already weakened
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	that would stretch the tissue and it would
10		rupture, is that what happens?
11	А.	Yes. That could potentially occur.
12	Q.	You could also stick the instrument physically
13		and perforate the colon, correct? Stick it
14		through the colon?
15	A.	Right.
16	Q.	And the other way it could occur is during the
17		removal of a polyp?
18	Α.	Correct.
19	Q.	How does that occur mechanically? How does the
20		colon become perforated?
21	Α.	When you removed a polyp you use cautery, an
22		electric cautery snare and you try to remove the
23		entire polyp, and in doing so, you always remove
24		the superficial layers of the lining of the
25		colon, so there is always a chance that the

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1		electrocautery could cause a deeper hole in the
2		wall of the colon, and if it was a full thickness
З		hole it would be a free perforation.
4	Q.	Now, let's go and talk about a delayed
- 5		perforation, okay, one that did not become
6		evident during or occur or become evident during
7		the actual procedure. Okay?
8	A.	Yes.
9	Q.	You testified that that's a rare occurrence,
10		correct?
11	Α.	Yes. Extremely rare.
12	Q.	But it does occur.
13	Α.	It may occur, I would think within a maximum of a
14		week or two after a procedure at the most.
15	·Q.	Have you read the autopsy in this case?
16	Α.	No, I didn't.
17	Q.	The death certificate in this case?
18	Α.	No.
19	Q.	Are you under the understanding that William
20		Guthrie suffered a perforated colon in this case?
21	Α.	That's what I was told.
22	Q.	In reading through the medical records that you
23		have in front of you or other medical records
24		that you have had an opportunity to review, do
25		you agree that he suffered a perforated colon?

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1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	When do you believe the colon actually
3		perforated?
4	A.	I think it occurred myself within 24 hours of
5		June 1, when he came to the Emergency Room.
6	Q.	So you think the colon perforated sometime June 1
7		or after.
8	A.	Yes.
9	Q.	All right.
10	A.	Well, sometime within 24 hours preceding June 1,
11		either May 31 or June 1, within 24 hours of
12		arriving at the hospital.
13		MR. FRASURE: Just for reference
14		sake, what time was the arrival?
15		MR. CONWAY: Well, he arrived
16	Q.	You have the record in front of you. He was
17		called by EMS he was called excuse me, EMS
18		was called at 12:51 p.m
19	Α.	So he came in the afternoon.
20	Q.	Well, you did, and I'm not trying to trick you or
21		anything, you did the procedure on May 25.
22	Α.	Right. One week before.
23	Q.	You're saying that the colon perforated up to 24
24		hours before he goes into the Emergency Room on
25		June 1. Correct?
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1	Α.	That's my opinion.	
2	Q.	So it's your opinion he suffered a delayed	
3		perforation, correct?	
4	Α.	Yes.	
5	Q.	What caused that delayed perforation, in your	
6		opinion, doctor?	
7	A.	I don't know the exact cause of the delayed	
8		perforation.	
9	Q.	Could it have been the weakening of the	
10		intestinal lining due to the polypectomies?	
11	A.	That's one possible cause.	
12	Q.	What would be some other possible causes?	
13	А.	He also had very severe diverticulosis of the	
14		left side of the colon in the area where the	
15		polyp was removed.	
16	Q.	And how could that contribute to possibly a	
17		delayed perforation?	
18	A.	It's a thin portion of the wall of the bowel to	Þ
1.9		begin with, and anything that increases the	
20		pressure or causes inflammation in that vicinit	У,
21		whether he had diverticulosis or he had	
22		constipation or whether he had poor circulation	• 1
23		he is a man with known vascular disease, I don'	t
24		know what his vascular status was right at that	
25		time because I didn't see him, that was a week	

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1		after I saw him, and people can get a localized
2		ischemic colitis.
3		I just don't know what the exact cause of the
4		perforation was, but I was told that it occurred
5		in the sigmoid colon.
6	Q.	All right. Was the colonoscopy that you
7		performed on May 25 a difficult procedure?
8	A.	Yes.
9	Q.	Just cutting to the chase, what was out of the
10		ordinary as far as being difficult regarding
11		Mr. Guthrie's procedure on May 25?
12	Α.	He had a very tortuous colon, also narrowing of
13		the sigmoid colon
14	Q.	What does tortuous colon mean?
15	Α.	Tortuous colon means sharp angulation. Hopefully
16		the colonoscopist finds a straight colon; his was
17		not. We used a pediatric scope on him, the
18		smallest diameter soft flexible scope to make it
19		as easy as possible, and even with the pediatric
20		scope it was difficult to get around the sharp
21		turns or corners. And also it was hard to fully
22		insufflate the colon with air because of spasm
23		and because of stricture in the sigmoid colon.
24	Q.	And obviously the more difficult the procedure,
25		the greater the likelihood of a perforation.

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1		Would that follow?
2	A.	I would think the increase it would be
3		increased somewhat if it was a technically
4		difficult procedure.
5	Q.	I'm just saying that would follow if you have a
6		very technically difficult procedure. That's
7		going to increase the risk of a complication,
8		correct?
9	A.	Correct.
10	Q.	And the risks we're talking about here is that it
11	aver version and the source of	would increase the risk of a perforation.
12		Correct?
13	Α.	Correct.
14	Q.	The polypectomy times ten, how did you find those
15		procedures to be as far as difficult with regards
16		to Mr. Guthrie? Did that question make sense?
17	Α.	No.
18	Q.	You're being honest, at least.
19		MR. FRASURE: I understood it.
20		MR. MOSS: We'll let you answer
21		it.
22	A.	Was it difficult to remove the polyps?
23	Q.	Yes. There were ten of them.
24	A.	Yes.
25	Q.	Was it difficult to remove them in this case,

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		25
1		compared to your normal case?
2	A.	I've had other ones that were more difficult than
3		this, but on the degree of difficulty, it was
4		difficult.
5	Q.	What about the numbers of polyps that you
6		removed? Is ten normal, high, low, for
7	A.	Ten would be high.
8	Q.	Obviously, the more polyps you are removing, the
9		greater the risk that there could be a
10		perforation from the removal of polyps, correct?
11	A .	Correct.
12	Q.	At the time you performed these procedures and
13		the time subsequently, to the best of your
14		knowledge, Dr. Gross was Mr. Guthrie's primary
15		care physician?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	And Dr. Gross was Mr. Guthrie's attending
18		physician while he was hospitalized at Massillon
19		Community Hospital, to the best of your
20		knowledge?
21		MR. MOSS: Which time?
22		MR. CONWAY: During the time
23		period when you performed the procedures
24	A.	Dr. Scheatzle was the attending physician
25		technically, because he was in the rehabilitation

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26 unit. Dr. Gross has known him for a long time 1 and I understood took care of his wife, too, 2 before she died, and was his cardiologist and 3 general internist. 4 5 Q. So let's just stick to the use of primary care 6 physician. 7 At the time that you performed these 8 procedures and afterwards, to the best of your 9 knowledge, Dr. Gross was Mr. Guthrie's primary care physician, correct? 10 11 Α. Yes, along with I think Dr. -- there were other 12 internists involved too, Dr. Perry and Dr. David had seen him too while he was in the hospital, 13 but Dr. Gross --14 Have you known Dr. Gross for a while --15 Q. 16 MR. MOSS: I don't think he finished the answer. 17 18 Dr. Gross, he was the one communicating with me Α. 19 during this time frame, during these two days that I saw him. 20 21 And he was the one that requested these Q. 22 procedures be done, correct? 23 MR. MOSS: Objection. 24 MR. FRASURE: Or requested the 25 consult, you mean?

		27			
1		MR. CONWAY: Yes.			
2	A.	Technically, the consult was requested by one of			
3		the internists. I don't know whether it was Dr.			
4		David or Dr. Perry. They are all within the same			
5		group, basically, Stark Medical Specialties.			
6		Dr. Gross had, I had discussed this case with			
7		him personally, he seemed the most available and,			
8		you know, directly managing him from a medical			
9		standpoint in the rehab unit, and that's why I			
10		felt that that's who I communicated with and he			
11		in turn would communicate anything important to			
12	and the state of t	the other doctors, too, that were seeing him.			
13	Q.	Did you have any role or input into the discharge			
14		of William Guthrie on May 27 from Massillon			
15		Community Hospital?			
16	Α.	NO.			
17	Q.	Obviously, the description you've giving here in			
18		deposition regarding the difficulty of the			
19		procedure you performed on Mr. Guthrie was			
20		communicated to Dr. Gross, correct?			
21	A.	Yes.			
22	Q.	Do you know Dr. Gross personally?			
23	A.	I know him professionally. I don't know him			
24		personally, but we worked together on many cases			
25		over the years.			

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1	Q.	Were you aware of the circumstances surrounding			
2		the discharge to home health care nursing which			
3		Dr. Gross ordered on May 27?			
4	А.	No.			
5	Q.	Have you ever had the opportunity to be an			
6		attending physician for a patient where you have			
7		had that patient discharged to Massillon			
8		Community Hospital home health care nursing?			
9	Α.	No. I work as a consultant basically at			
10		Massillon, and the primary care physician handles			
11	e Privile Bo Anna line Col Lucia	that.			
12	Q,	So you would not typically have any involvement			
13		in the discharge of any patients which you have			
14		performed any type of gastroenterology procedure			
15		on?			
16	A.	Only if they were an outpatient that just came in			
17		for that test and left that same day.			
18	Q.	Then they probably wouldn't be going to home			
19		health care nursing, then.			
20	Α.	Right. Sometimes they return to a nursing home.			
21	Q.	When you have patients return to a nursing home,			
22		do you ever communicate with the nursing home as			
23		to what the procedure you performed on the			
24		patient was?			
25	A.	We send a report of what we found, and the nurses			

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l		call the nursing home directly to discuss it with
2		them. When it is an in patient like this, the
3		nurses communicate with the rehab unit, the head
4		nurse, of what was found, and I write the orders
5		afterwards, and he is returned up to the floor
6		after a period of observation.
7	Q.	Can we go through and have you list what the
8		signs and symptoms of a perforated colon are?
9		MR. FRASURE: That can be seen
10		but not always?
11		MR. CONWAY: No. Just the
12		possible signs of, recognized signs and
13		symptoms of a perforated colon.
14	Α.	I would think that
15		MR. FRASURE: Let me ask. From a
16		scope or just in general, for any reason?
17		MR. CONWAY: All right. We'll
18		start with from any procedure, perforated
19		colon, the signs and symptoms.
20	A.	I would think abdominal pain, fever, bleeding,
21		perhaps vomiting. Like I say, leading to more
22		severe signs of peritonitis, septic shock.
23	Q.	What would be the more severe signs of
24		peritonitis?
25	A.	If a person had diffuse abdominal pain, absent

		. 30			
1		bowel sounds, running a high fever, perhaps			
2		shortness of breath.			
3	Q.	And then going on to			
4	А.	Going on to			
5	Q.	Septic shock?			
6	Α.	Septic shock and a drop in blood pressure, loss			
. 7		of consciousness.			
8	Q.	Now, would these signs and symptoms that you have			
9		described in general for perforated colon be the			
10		same signs and symptoms you would see in a			
11		perforation that results from a colonoscopy			
12		that's perforated the colon?			
13	A.	I didn't understand the question. These same			
14		signs and symptoms would be for a spontaneous			
15		perforation as compared to a procedural			
16		perforation?			
17		MR. FRASURE: I think I mucked it			
18		up.			
19		MR. CONWAY: But that's good			
20		because we'll ask it that way.			
21	Q.	Would these signs and symptoms be applicable to			
22		an acute perforation that occurs during a			
23		colonoscopy?			
24	A.	Yes.			
25	Q.	Would they be applicable to a delayed perforation			

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1		that occurs some days after a colonoscopy?
2	A.	Yes. And also apply to a spontaneous that
3		occurs
4	Q.	In the absence of any colonoscopy?
5	A.	In the absence of any procedure. Right.
6	Q.	Very good. If postoperatively nurses became
7		aware of any of these signs and symptoms
8		following your performance of a colonoscopy and
9		you were the patient's attending physician, would
10		you expect to be notified of those conditions
11	and the second	that a patient was experiencing?
12		MR. JAMISON: Objection.
13		MR. FRASURE: What's the
14		hypothetical now, or the scenario?
15		MR. CONWAY: It was at the
16		beginning of the sentence. Would you read
17		it back?
18		••• •• •• •• ·
19		(Thereupon, the requested portion of
20	5 -	the record was read by the Notary.)
21		
22		MR. MOSS: I object.
23		MR. JAMISON: Objection.
24	Q.	You can answer.
25	Α.	I would expect the nurses to notify a physician

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1		if there was any severe pain, fever, drop in				
2		blood pressure, vomiting, bleeding, just as they				
3		do on any other patient in the hospital who has				
4		any of those same problems, too.				
5	Q.	In this particular case, were you ever contacted				
6		by anyone from Massillon Community Hospital home				
7		health care regarding				
8	Α.	No.				
9	Q.	regarding this patient at any time subsequent				
10		to your May 25 colonoscopy?				
11	A.	No.				
12	Q.	Do you know a Nurse Geraldine Shandt?				
13	A.	No.				
14	Q.	I take it you were not contacted by Nurse Shandt				
15		at any time subsequent to your May 25				
16		colonoscopy, correct?				
17	A.	Correct.				
18	Q.	Were you ever contacted by Dr. Gross following				
19		that conversation that you had with him on				
20		May 25?				
21	A.	No.				
22	Q.	Were you ever contacted or was your office ever				
23		contacted by anyone from Dr. Gross' office after				
24		that May 25 conversation between you and Dr.				
25		Gross?				

		33				
1	Α.	No.				
2	Q.	Were you ever contacted by Dr. Seese?				
3	Α.	No.				
4	Q.	Do you know who Dr. Seese is?				
5	А.	Yes. Dr. Gross' partner.				
6	Q.	Doctor, did you comply with the standard of care				
7		at all times during your involvement with the				
8		care and treatment of William Guthrie?				
9	A.	To my knowledge I did.				
10	Q.	Did you comply with the standard of care during				
11	one and the second s	your EGD which you performed on May 24, 2000?				
12	Α.	Yes.				
13	Q.	Did you comply with the standard of care during				
14		your colonoscopy on May 25, 2000?				
15	A.	Yes.				
16	Q.	Did you comply with the standard of care during				
17		Mr. Guthrie's postoperative period following his				
18		May 25, 2000 colonoscopy?				
19	A.	Yes.				
20	Q.	And as you indicated before, you were not the				
21		doctor responsible for discharging Mr. Guthrie				
22		from Massillon Community Hospital on May 27,				
23		2000, correct?				
24	Α.	Correct.				
25	Q.	Did you become involved in the care and treatment				

34 of Mr. Guthrie after he was readmitted to 1 Massillon Community Hospital on June 1? 2 I did see him postoperatively. My partner, Dr. 3 Α. Shay, was covering the hospital the first day or 4 5 two of his hospitalization and he had gone to surgery on the first day or two after that, and I 6 7 saw him I forget how many, a couple days, two or three days in a row when he was in the intensive 8 care unit, and then I think my other partner, Dr. 9 Schirack, we rotate our hospital coverage, he saw 10 him I think the remainder of the hospitalization, 11 12 I believe. Did you have any conversations with William 13 Q. 14 Guthrie at the time you saw him during his 15 hospitalization in June? 16 Α. He couldn't communicate very well at all 17 postoperatively, and the days that you saw him, 18 it was not conversation. It was not like it was 19 before his procedures. 20 Q. Was he conscious when you saw him during his June 21 hospitalization? 22 Α. Semi-conscious. He couldn't communicate. 23 Q. Do you know what his prognosis was at the time 24that you saw him in June? 25 Α. It was very, very poor. And it was poor when I

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1		saw him earlier, too, in May, from his overall			
2		problems, his heart disease, his stroke, his			
3.		severe COPD, and it was worse obviously having a			
4		major surgery and anesthetic.			
5	Q.	Well, it was a lot worse after you saw him in May			
6		since he had suffered septic shock in the			
7		interim, correct?			
8	A.	Right. He had renal failure, too.			
9	Q.	As a result of the septic shock, correct?			
10		MR. MOSS: Objection.			
11		MR. JAMISON: Objection.			
12	Q.	If you know.			
13	A.	I don't know for sure, but I assume.			
14	Q.	Did you have any conversations with any members			
15		of his family during the June hospitalization?			
16	Α.	I did not.			
17	Q.	Do you recall having any conversations with Dr.			
18		Gross regarding William Guthrie during the time			
19		period of William Guthrie's June hospitalization?			
20	Α.	I didn't personally. I think two or three days			
21		that I followed him I didn't. He was there			
22		different times than I was making rounds. Our			
23		role in June was extremely limited since he was			
24		primarily postoperative and Dr. Meshekow, the			
25		surgeon, was managing him in the intensive care			

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	1		unit, and Dr. Gross was managing his
	2		cardiopulmonary needs and ventilator and
	3		everything else, and we were pretty much on the
	4		sidelines.
	5	Q.	Did there come a point in time when you learned
	6		that William Guthrie had died?
	7	A.	Yes.
·	8	Q.	Do you recall when that was?
	9	А.	I don't recall the exact time. I think it was a
	10		few days later, after he passed away, when I was
	11		notified about it.
	12	Q.	Did you have a conversation with Dr. Gross at
1.edu-	13	N GANCHER CLIER OF ON	that time?
er -	14	А.	No.
	15	Q.	Since the time that
	16	Α.	I believe that if I recall, one of my partners
	17		had told me, so I think Dr. Schirack, I believe,
	18		was covering for me at the hospital there those
	19		days and I think he had relayed to me the
	20		information that he had passed away, and I didn't
	21		discuss it with Dr. Meshekow or Dr. Gross either.
	22	Q.	At any time after this rehospitalization on
	2.3		June 1, 2000, up until today's date, have you
	24		discussed William Guthrie with Dr. Gross?
	2.5	Α.	No.
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1	Q.	At any time from June 1, 2000, up until today's	
2		date, have you had any conversations that you	
3		recall with any members of his family, and by	
4		"his," I'm referring to William Guthrie.	
5	A.	No. There's one correction I would like to add	
6		back to my answer a little bit ago about	
7		discussing the case with Dr. Gross.	
8		The only discussion that I know of since all	
9		this was last year, when this was originally	
10		filed, and I was supposed to give a deposition on	
11	n availater and sources	a Saturday here, and I showed up for three hours	
12		and no one else showed up, none of the attorneys	
13		came, and I sat in the parking lot for three	
14		hours and I saw Dr. Gross a week later and I	
15		said that was the first time I ever spent my day	
16		off on a Saturday in the cold in my truck outside	
17		for three hours and no one else showed up for the	
18		deposition, and one of the attorneys here	
19		contacted me and said it was a screw up, all the	
20	-	attorneys knew it was cancelled but I didn't.	
21		MR. FRASURE: See, I'm amazed I'm	
22		still his lawyer.	
23		THE WITNESS: And the thing was	
24		dropped shortly thereafter and I never gave	
25		a deposition after. That was just the	

1		extent of our conversation.
2		MR. FRASURE: Let it all out,
3		Kirk.
4		THE WITNESS: Does that go in the
5		record?
6		MR. MOSS: That is down forever
7		now.
8		MR. FRASURE: Somebody paid the
9		price for that.
10	Q.	Well, I was not involved in this case at that
11		time.
12	i mundi la constanta (1987)	MR. FRASURE: We can't blame it
13		on you or your predecessor.
14	Q.	Doctor, what records do you have in front of you?
15	A.	This is records of Mr. Guthrie's hospitalization,
16		in May of 2000, when I was involved.
17	Q.	Those have been provided to you by your attorney?
18	A.	Yes.
19	Q.	Have you had an opportunity to review those?
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	Let's go through, and I just need to know where
22		you wrote some charting here.
23		Why don't we go to the progress notes for
24		May 23, 2000.
25	А.	Yes.

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1	Q.	Am I correct in assuming this May 23, 2000,
2		6:15 a.m. note is your first note in these
3		medical records pertaining to William Guthrie?
4	A.	Yes. I had dictated the report prior to this.
5		Then I wrote the progress note.
6	Q.	Why don't you read this progress note into the
7		record.
8	А.	5/23/2000, 6:15 a.m., gastroenterology consult
9		done, my impression is anemia with hemoccult
10		positive stools, unknown etiology.
11		My recommendations were that we start a colon
12		cleansing prep over the next 48 hours, check
13		serial H and H, EGD at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday the
14		24th, and a colonoscopy at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday
15		the 24th I put the 24th, it should have been
16		the 25th.
17	Q.	And that's your signature?
18	Α.	That's my signature.
19	Q.	The next note would be May 24?
20	Α.	Right.
21	Q.	At 6:40 a.m., correct?
22	A.	Right.
23	Q.	Why don't you read into the record your progress
24		note at that time.
25	A.	EGD with biopsies, and these are my impressions

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1		listed. Mild GERD, small hiatal hernia, diffuse
2		chronic atrophic gastritis with coffee ground
3		colored blood flecks in the stomach, and the last
4		impression is mild duodenitis.
5		My recommendations are discussed with
6		daughter, who is power of attorney, Leona
7		Shaffer, by phone, and explained the findings.
8		Since the hemoglobin was dropping and no active
9		upper GI bleeding or peptic ulcer, et cetera,
10		found, she agrees to proceed with colonoscopy at
11	N TRANSPORT	7:00 a.m. tomorrow.
12		And then the last one was Prevacid 30
13		milligrams Q day and check serial H and H.
14	Q.	The next written progress note would be May 25 at
15		8:00 a.m., is that correct?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	Do you want to read that into the record?
18	A.	Colonoscopy to cecum with polypectomy times ten.
19		First impression was colon polyps times ten,
20		five to fifteen millimeters, that's in diameter,
21		basically
22	Q.	Are those large or small?
23	A.	Medium size. Scattered throughout the entire
24		colon. Removed.
25		Diverticulosis with extrinsic stricturing of

41 the sigmoid colon, 30 centimeters, and marked 1 narrowing of the lumen. 2 Third finding was hemorrhoids. 3 Recommendations. No added salt, low residue 4 diet for two weeks until the polypectomy sites 5 have healed, ideally stop aspirin, Plavix and 6 7 anticoagulants for two weeks postoperatively, but this patient is too high a risk of life 8 threatening CVA, myocardial infarction, et cetera 9 10 to stop them. 11 Check serial -- excuse me. Check serial CBC 12 and monitor closely for signs of active bleeding, consider barium enema x-ray in two to three 13 months to recheck the sigmoid stricture after the 14 15 polypectomy sites have healed, but patient states 16 he doesn't want surgery even if malignancy found, and that's my signature. 17 And that's your signature? 18 Q. 19 Yes. Α. 20 Were there any more written progress notes that Q. 21 you were responsible for? 22 Α. Not during this hospitalization. The dictated notes would be --23 Q. 24 MR. FRASURE: Do you have orders? The dictated notes would be from the May 23, 25 Q.

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1		2000 excuse me. There was a consult note,
2		correct, that you dictated from May 23, 2000,
3		correct?
4	Α.	Yes.
5	Q.	And then there was an operative note for the
6		May 24, 2000 EGD with biopsy, correct?
7	Α.	Correct.
8	Q.	Then there was the May 25, 2000, operative note
9		for the colonoscopy to the cecum with polypectomy
10		times ten, correct?
11	Α.	Correct.
12	Q.	Any orders that you issued in this particular
13		case?
14	A.	The orders are in the chart that I wrote.
15	Q.	Why don't we go to the specific orders that you
16		are responsible for.
17	Α.	The first order was May 23, 2000, at 6:05 I think
18		it is, or 6:15. I'm not sure. I think it is
19		6:05 a.m.
20	Q.	You want to read that?
21	A.	And I wrote clear liquid diet plus Ensure, one
22		can p.o., t.i.d.; number two is milk of magnesia,
23		60 cc p.o. at 10:00 a.m. today and 10:00 a.m. on
24		Wednesday; Number 3 is milk of magnesia citrate,
25		ten ounces, p.o., 2:00 p.m. today and 2:00 p.m.

on Wednesday. 1 2 Number 4 was n.p.o. post midnight for 7:00 a.m. EGD on Wednesday, May 24, 2000, and the next 3 is colonoscopy scheduled at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday 4 5 by Dr. Elliott, and the last is start IV D5 and a 6 half normal saline, a hundred cc's an hour at 7 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday for EGD, and that's the extent of the orders on that morning until after 8 9 the procedure. Well, go ahead then. What other orders? 10 Ο. The next order would have been -- let me see. 11 Α. 12 On May 24, 2000, at 6:45 a.m., this was after 13 the EGD, the first was a listing of the 14 medications that were given for the EGD, Demerol 35 milligrams IV, Versed one milligram IV, and 15 16 Sensorcaine. 17 The next one is n.p.o. until 8:00 a.m., then restart clear liquid diet plus Ensure t.i.d. if 18 19 fully awake. Soap suds enema this a.m. and 20 repeat times one this afternoon. Give milk of 21 magnesia and magnesia citrate today as ordered. 22 Dulcolax suppository times one at 7:00 p.m. 23 today. N.p.o. after midnight, colonoscopy at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday by Dr. Elliott, Prevacid, 2425 30 milligrams p.o., 8:00 a.m. today and Q 6:00

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1		a.m. daily, and I ordered a CBC and Chem 7 at	
2		6:00 a.m. on Thursday.	
3	Q.	At no time did you speak with Dr. Blankenhorn	
4	ny provi na processi na processi na	regarding either one of these procedures,	
5		correct?	
6	Α.	No.	
7	Q.	Correct?	
8	Α.	That's correct. And then the last orders were on	
9		May 25, 2000, at 8:00 a.m., post colonoscopy.	
10		Again I listed the medications that were given	
11	4 Reality of the second s	for the colonoscopy, the Demerol, 50 milligrams	
12		IV, and Versed 1.4 milligrams IV slowly.	
13		Number two is n.p.o. until 9:30 a.m., then	
14		full liquid diet for breakfast, advance to no	
15		added salt, low residue diet at lunch as	
16		tolerated. CBC Friday at 6:00 a.m. IV, 75 cc's	
17		per hour until fully awake and tolerating p.o.	
18		liquids well until 10:00, then DC IV if fully	
19		awake and tolerating p.o. liquids as well. And	
20		that's it.	
21	Q.	Is what you have testified to this afternoon the	
22		extent of your charting for William Guthrie prior	
23		to his May 27, 2000 discharge?	
24	Α.	Yes, including the dictated procedural notes and	
25		the recommendations following the procedures that	

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. 1		were dictated that we didn't read just now.
2	Q.	We didn't read them because they are pretty
3		MR. FRASURE: They are typed.
4	Q.	They are typed.
5	Α.	Correct.
6	Q.	Do patients ever become constipated following a
7		colonoscopy?
8	A.	I think it's common for a day or two, for the
9		bowel activity to slow down because it is empty,
10		the colon is empty, and it takes a few days to
11	Non- and the second	start picking back up again.
12	Q.	What about a decrease in appetite following a
13		colonoscopy? Is that fairly typical?
14	Α.	It would be common for a short period of time,
15		but usually by 12 to 24 hours it is picked back
16		up to fairly normal.
17	Q.	How about a patient who experiences a blood
18		pressure of 84 over 44 five days subsequent to a
19		colonoscopy? Any significance to you?
20		MR. MOSS: Objection.
21		MR. JAMISON: Objection.
22	A.	It would depend upon the individual patient.
23		Some patients, including Mr. Guthrie, carried a
24		low blood pressure before procedures and after
25		procedures.

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1.	Q.	Certainly his blood pressure was not as low as 84
2		over 44.
3		MR. MOSS: Objection.
4		MR. JAMISON: Objection.
5	Α.	I don't know. I have not reviewed all the blood
6		pressures on all the days that he was in the
7		hospital, but I do know he did have very severe
8		congestive heart failure and a very weak heart,
9		and I understand low blood pressure was the norm
10		for him.
11	Q.	Your understanding of that blood pressure, was it
12	an an i an	in the range of 102 over 70 or do you know?
13	A.	At what point?
14		MR. FRASURE: When you were
15		treating him.
16	Α.	During the procedure, you mean?
17	Q.	During the time you were treating him, during the
18		procedure.
19	А.	Blood pressure fluctuated at several points
20		during the procedure. It was never as low as
21		what you said earlier, 80, something like that.
22		During the procedure it was above that. Systolic
23		blood pressure was above 100 during the
24		procedure.
25	Q.	When you were treating him, did you ever know his

47 blood pressure systolic to be below 100 at any 1 2 time you were involved in his care and treatment? 3 Α. I wasn't aware during the procedure or when he was in the recovery room from the procedure. 4 I wasn't notified by any nursing later in the day 5 that it had dropped or anything following the 6 7 procedure. 8 That's something that you would want to be made Q. 9 aware of if in fact he did have a drop in blood 10 pressure? 11 MR. MOSS: Objection. 12 MR. JAMISON: Objection. 13 Α. I'm always available if they have any questions, the nurses have any questions or the attending 14 physician has any questions, to call. I would be 15 16 more than happy to field those. But usually in 17 most cases, especially a patient like him, with as complicated of a history that he has, more 18 19 likely than not they usually would contact Dr. 20 Gross about blood pressure questions because he 21 was managing all of his different cardiac 22 medications. 23 I'm just trying to get a feel for what your Q. 24 expectations regarding this patient were in this 25 particular situation.

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l	A.	Right.
2	Q.	You obviously were not expecting to be contacted
3		by any home health care nurses regarding this
4		patient, correct?
5	Α.	Correct.
6	Q.	And you would expect any type of post surgical
7		conditions which arose to be reported to Dr.
8		Gross first and not yourself, correct?
9		MR. MOSS: Objection.
10	А.	Correct.
11		MR. CONWAY: Doctor, I don't
12		believe I have any further questions at
13		this point in time. Thank you.
14		MR. FRASURE: Yes.
15		MR. MOSS: I just have a couple.
16		
17		CROSS-EXAMINATION OF R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O.
18		BY MR. MOSS:
19	Q.	Dr. Elliott, we were introduced before the
20		deposition; I represent Dr. Gross in this case.
21		I have very few questions for you, primarily by
22		way of clarification.
23		You talked about your recommendations with
24		regard to discontinuance of anti-coagulant
25		medication after the colonoscopy; do you recall

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1		that testimony?
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	And you said typically following a colonoscopy
4		you would recommend that anti-coagulant
5		medication be discontinued for a period of about
6		two weeks, correct?
7	Α.	Only if polypectomy was performed.
8	Q.	I'm sorry. Following a polypectomy, because of
9		the risk of bleeding.
10	Α.	Right.
11	Q.	In this case, however, you believed that there
12		were other risks which outweighed the risk of
13		bleeding, namely, the risks of a further stroke
14		or an MI if the anti-coagulant medication was
15		discontinued, correct?
16	Α.	That's what Dr. Gross relayed to me
17	Q.	Okay.
18	Α.	And I agreed with him. It happens frequently
19		that I defer to the cardiologist or to the
20		specialist who is taking care of the patient.
21	Q.	Okay.
22	A.	For vascular disease.
23	Q.	But in your op report for the polypectomy on May
24		25, you say "I feel the risks far outweigh the
25		benefits in this situation and he should continue

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1		his current medications and be watched very
2		closely for any sign of active bleeding." Do you
3		see that?
4	A.	By risks
5	Q.	You talk in the previous sentence about the
6		patient's severe stenotic disease with recent
7		stroke. "I feel he is at risk of recurrent
8		cardiovascular accident, MI, or sudden death,"
9		correct?
10	А.	Okay.
11	Q.	Is that what you believed following this
12	and a second	patient's polypectomy?
13	А.	Right.
14	Q.	And you discussed those risks with Dr. Gross and
15		you and he were in agreement that because of this
16		patient's prior history of CVA, MI, that for this
17		particular patient it was best to continue or
18		resume the anti-coagulant medications following
19		surgery.
20	A.	Yes.
21	Q.	In other words, the risk that this patient might
22		bleed postoperatively because he was on
23		anti-coagulant medication was outweighed by the
24		risk that he would suffer another stroke or
25		perhaps another heart attack if those medications

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. 1		were not resumed. Is that fair?
2	Α.	Correct.
3	Q.	You mentioned that you didn't think that this
4		patient should undergo a small bowel x-ray, which
5		again would have been a typical recommendation
6		that you would make for a patient who had
7		undergone a polypectomy?
8		MR. FRASURE: Barium enema? I'm
9		sorry. Go ahead.
lO	Α.	In this particular patient, he was extremely
.11		tachypneic and frail, elderly, just had suffered
12		a stroke a couple weeks before, and there were no
13		signs of any active bleeding, bright red blood
14		seen coming through the bowel, so my
15		recommendation was to stop at this point here,
16		continue his other medical care Dr. Gross was
17		giving, and then reassess him, I think I put in
18		here in six weeks or something, to see if he is
19		stronger and then able to complete a further
20		workup.
21	Q.	And you addressed that issue in your operative
22		note, correct?
23	A.	Correct.
24	Q.	And is that paragraph three of your note?
25	A.	Yes.

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1	Q.	You say, "in view of the stricture of the sigmoid
2		colon I would normally recommend a barium enema
3		x-ray approximately two months after all the
4		polypectomy sites have fully healed to double
5		check this area, but in view of this patient's
6		otherwise poor health and desire not to have any
7		surgery, we'll wait and see how he does over the
8		next six weeks."
9		First, is that what we were just talking
10		about?
11	А.	Correct. That's what he told me, that he did not
12		want to have surgery regardless of what was
13		found. He gave his permission for the scope to
14		be done to see if something could be controlled
15		endoscopically, because I brought up at this
16		point what if something like cancer was found.
17	Q.	And what did he say when you brought that up?
18	A.	He said absolutely not.
19	Q.	Did he say why?
20	A.	Because he said he wouldn't live through surgery.
21	Q.	Did you believe that?
22	A.	Yes, absolutely.
23	Q.	Did you think his risks of surviving another
24		surgery were very, very small?
25	A.	Very small.
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1	Q.	And that's because of all of his co-morbid
2		conditions?
3	Α.	Correct.
4	Q.	Was that issue of was that issue, namely
5		whether or not malignancy was found, whether
б		further surgery would be performed, discussed
7		with Miss Shaffer by you?
8	Α.	I had told her the results of the endoscopy, what
9		I found, this recommendation of what would be
10		done as far as further x-rays, that sort of
11		thing, basically what I put down here, but to my
12		recollection, I told her that he did not want
13		surgery even if a problem was found.
14	Q.	Did Miss Shaffer express any objection to that
15		proposed course, or any disagreement with her
16		father's wishes in that regard?
17	A.	No.
18	Q.	In terms of the postoperative management of this
19		patient after the polypectomy, what was done to
20		try to look for signs of perforation while he
21		remained in the hospital? Did you order any
22		tests or prescribe any other procedures which
23		would alert the medical staff as to the
24		possibility of perforation in the postoperative
25		period while he remained in the hospital?

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1	Α.	He had the normal postoperative monitoring done
2		in the endoscopy unit, and then when he was felt
3		to be stable he was returned to the floor with
4		the normal routine nursing care that every
5		inpatient receives, which basically would detect
6		any of these things I talked about earlier as far
7		as the presence of pain or the presence of
8		vomiting or active bleeding, high fever.
9	Q.	You were checking CBCs after the surgery?
10	А.	I ordered one the following day after surgery,
11		primarily as not because I suspected any
12		problems, it was mainly because he had been
13		anemic before, and I wanted to make sure his
14		hemoglobin had remained stable.
15	Q.	Is there anything based upon your recollection or
16		your review of this chart that suggests that this
17		patient was demonstrating any signs and symptoms
18		of a perforation postoperatively up until the
19		point of discharge?
20	Α.	No.
21	Q.	On May 27. No signs of perforation?
22	Α.	I did not, no. There were no signs of
23		perforation.
24	Q.	Would you agree that if a patient suffers a
25		perforation postoperatively following a

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1		colonoscopy/polypectomy, what is the let me go
2		at this a different way.
3		What is the likelihood of a perforation
4		occurring following a colonoscopy/polypectomy
5		within, let's say 48 hours after the procedure?
6		MR. FRASURE: Percentage-wise?
7		MR. MOSS: Yes.
8	А.	You're saying a perforation did not occur the day
9		of the procedure, but what is the percentage of
10		people that would suffer a perforation two days
11		later?
12	Q.	Delayed perforations happening within 24 hours.
13	A.	To be honest with you, a delayed perforation, any
14		perforation during an endoscopy is a rare event.
15		A delayed perforation is an extreme event, and
16		I'm not sure that you could put a percentage on
17		it, to be honest with you. Maybe one in a
18		hundred thousand or one in a million. I have no
19		idea what percentage it would be.
20		MR. CONWAY: Objection, move to
21		strike the answer.
22	Q.	If he had sustained a perforation during a
23		procedure, would you have expected to see signs
24		and symptoms of that perforation by the time he
25		was discharged on the 27th?

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1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	And likewise, if he had sustained a delayed
3		perforation prior to his discharge, you would
4		expect to see signs and symptoms very shortly
5		after the perforation occurred?
6	A.	Yes.
7	Q.	Are you aware of any studies or literature that
8	CALINE MI IN IN LINE IN THE OWNER	talks about the risks of delayed perforation as
9		you move further out following a surgical
10		procedure?
11	A.	No.
12	Q.	And it's your opinion that Mr. Guthrie sustained
13		a perforation within 24 hours of his readmission
14		to the hospital on June 1, within 24 hours before
15		that?
16	Α.	That's my opinion.
17	Q.	And what's the basis for that?
18	Α.	The basis is that if there was a perforation,
19		whether it is due to a procedure or whether it is
20		due to spontaneous perforation, diverticulitis,
21		foreign bodies or whatever the reason is,
22		patients rapidly deteriorate. All these things
23		we have discussed earlier occur. Very rapid
24		progression to septic shock, and it is considered
25		a surgical emergency that within just a few

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1		hours, that can make the difference between life
2		and death.
3	Q.	And because you did not see that rapid
4.		deterioration leading up to his
5		re-hospitalization, that is what you are saying,
6		that's the basis for your conclusion?
7		MR. FRASURE: Objection. He is
8		not aware of the records.
9		MR. MOSS: Okay.
10	Α.	I'm not aware of what happened at home. I'm just
11		saying during the hospitalization, the two days
12		that he was in the hospital after the procedure,
13		there were none of the signs or symptoms that I
1.4		listed that I would expect if he had a
15		perforation then. When he came back in the
16		hospital I read the Emergency Room record. The
17		Emergency Room record said twice on it from the
18		Emergency Room physician that severe pain started
19		this a.m. It said that twice. He said he was
20		constipated two or three days, but severe pain
21		started today. That sounded like it was an acute
22		type of a situation from the Emergency Room
23		report on 6/1/2000.
24	Q.	Would you expect to see a bowel movement in a
25		patient with a perforation?

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1	A.	No.
2	Q.	Would you expect to see
3	Α.	Unless it would be blood.
4	Q.	I'm talking about
5	A.	Normal bowel movement, no.
6	Q.	stool. Would you expect to see active bowel
7		sounds in a patient with a perforation?
8	Α.	No.
9	Q.	Would you expect to see a patient with the
10		ability to tolerate food or liquids by mouth with
11	i - Angele -	a perforation?
12	А.	No.
13	Q.	You would expect to see vomiting and inability to
14		tolerate food or liquid, correct?
15	А.	Correct.
16	Q.	Would you expect a patient who has suffered a
17		perforation to be complaining of abdominal
18		cramping versus severe abdominal pain?
19	Α.	The description of pain is so subjective on the
20		part of a person, I can't really say how they
21		would describe the pain. It would be severe if
22		they had a perforation.
23	Q.	And most patients would not call severe abdominal
24		pain cramping.
25		MR. FRASURE: Objection.

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1		MR. CONWAY: Objection.
2	Q.	If you know.
3	А.	It is impossible to say how the description of
4		pain would be because it is different from one
5		person to another.
6	Q.	Dr. Elliott, do you have any opinion based upon
7		your involvement with this patient as to what his
8	a real and a first state of the	life expectancy was as of May 25, 2000?
9		MR. FRASURE: You have not
10		reviewed all the records.
11	Α.	The day I saw him? The day he had his procedure?
12	Q.	Yes, sir.
13		MR. CONWAY: Objection.
14		MR. FRASURE: I don't think
15		that's fair to let him answer because he
16		hasn't reviewed all the records on his care
17		after his perforation.
18		MR. MOSS: Okay.
19	Q.	You said that the risk of a delayed perforation
20		is even less than the risk of a perforation
21		following an endoscopic procedure.
22		Do you have any
23	А.	During the procedure, you mean?
24	Q.	Yes.
25		MR. CONWAY: Objection to the

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60 form of that question. 1 2 MR. MOSS: I haven't finished it 3 yet. 4 MR. CONWAY: Whatever. 5 MR. MOSS: Let me try it again. 6 MR. CONWAY: I'm just trying to 7 be nice. 8 MR. MOSS: I know you are. 9 Ο. What I'm trying to get at is do you have any 10 statistics or information regarding the relative risks of a delayed perforation versus an acute 11 perforation during a procedure? 12 13 MR. MOSS: Is that better? 14 MR. CONWAY: Yes. 15 I don't have any specifics as to statistics, but Α. in general my belief is that it is much less 16 17 likely to have a delayed perforation than it would be to have one at the time of the 18 19 procedure. 20 MR. MOSS: That's all I have. 21 Thank you. 22 MR. JAMISON: I don't have any 23 questions for you right now. 24 MR. CONWAY: I just have a few, 25 doctor.

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2		FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION OF
3		<u>R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O.</u>
4		BY MR. CONWAY:
5	Q.	One of the signs and symptoms of a perforated
6		colon I think you testified to based upon some
7		questions asked by Mr. Moss was a high white
8		blood cell count, is that correct?
9	A.	I didn't say that.
10	Q.	Is an
11	A.	I said fever.
12	Q.	Then I misheard you. Is an elevated white blood
13		cell count an indication of one of the
14		indications of a perforated colon?
15	A.	There are many causes of an elevated white blood
16		cell count, including infection can be one cause.
17		And a perforated colon can lead to an infection,
18		so that is one of many causes of a white blood
19		cell count being elevated.
20	Q.	So with an infection following a perforation, you
21		would expect to see an elevated white blood cell
22		count, correct?
23		MR. JAMISON: Objection.
24	stat Total Diskut	MR. FRASURE: Do you want to put
25		any parameters on it?

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1	А.	You mean within 24 hours?
2	Q.	You said whatever time. I don't mean to put
3		words in your mouth. It logically follows based
4		on what you said that if there is a perforation,
5		the area becomes infected, peritonitis ensues,
6		correct?
7	A.	Right.
8	Q.	And when an infection is developing, the person's
9		white blood count becomes elevated, correct?
10	Α.	It may become elevated. It doesn't always. But
11	or de la companya de	it might become elevated. If it does become
12		elevated, and the infection is a very severe,
13		life threatening one, like peritonitis, you would
14		expect it to go higher and higher and higher with
15		time.
16	Q.	But it would be a rising white blood cell count,
17	<	correct, as the infection progresses?
18	Α.	Correct.
19	Q.	So theoretically, before the white blood cell
20		count gets to that highest level, it would have
21		been at lower levels, correct, working its way
22		upward?
23	A.	Correct.
24		MR. CONWAY: Okay.
25	Q.	Doctor, I want you to I'm going to ask you a

63 1 hypothetical, all right? 2 I want you to assume that immediately postoperatively you determined that Mr. Guthrie 3 had suffered a perforated colon. What type of 4 procedure would be done to repair the perforation 5 б prior to septic shock occurring? Does that 7 question make sense? If a perforation was recognized the day of his 8 Α. 9 procedure? 10 Yes. Let's deal with that situation first. Ο. 11 Hypothetically. Mr. Guthrie suffers a perforated 12 colon during the procedure, and it is immediately 13 recognized by yourself. 14 Right. Α. 15 What do you do at that point? Q. 16 MR. MOSS: Are you talking about 17 it is recognized intraoperatively? 18 MR. CONWAY: Yes. 19 MR. MOSS: I would just note an 20 objection. 21 Α. The first thing I would do would be to go ahead 22 and initiate any emergency procedures in order to 23 stave off worsening infection, like start 24 antibiotics, not feed the patient, obviously, give them plenty of intravenous fluids, consult a 25

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1		surgeon as soon as possible. Discuss it with the
2		family as soon as possible.
3	Q.	Do perforated colons have to be treated
4		surgically, or can they be managed medically?
5	A.	It would depend upon the degree of perforation
6		and the signs and symptoms of perforation. If it
7		was a very, very small, localized perforation, it
8		may be treated medically.
9.	Q.	And in that particular case, you would want to
10		treat the patient with antibiotics and avoid
11		exacerbating the situation by not feeding him
12		food. Correct?
13	A.	Correct.
14	Q.	Have you ever had patients where they have
15		perforated during a colonoscopy on you?
16	A.	One.
17	Q.	Were you able to treat it medically?
18	А.	No.
19	Q.	It had to go directly to
20	А.	Directly to surgery.
21	Q.	You opined earlier that this was not a patient
22		that would in your opinion be able to survive
23		another surgery, is that correct?
24	A.	I felt I'm not as familiar as Dr. Gross and
25		the other physicians treating all of his other

1		medical conditions, but in my opinion he was a
2		very poor surgical candidate because of all of
3		his medical problems and very, very high risk of
4		complications, the morbidity or mortality, plus
5		also his own answers to my questions and asking
6		him how aggressive to be, because I ask everybody
7		if they are conscious and can relay this
8		information what their code status is in the
9		event something should occur during the
10		procedure, should heavy bleeding occur,
11		perforation or cancer or something serious that
12		would require surgery, do they have a surgeon
13		they have seen before, so I have some idea,
14		because if they are still sleepy during the
15		sedative I may need to call a surgeon and would
16		elect to call a surgeon they would choose, if
17		possible.
18	Q.	But in the time period immediately following your
19		May 25 colonoscopy, I thought it was your opinion
20		based upon a question that Mr. Moss asked that he
21		would have difficulty surviving any further type
22		of surgery.
23	A.	You mean procedures?
24	Q.	Yes.
25	A.	At this point, I did not feel that he was strong

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l		enough to undergo further gastrointestinal
2		diagnostic tests, barium x-rays, endoscopy,
3		further endoscopy
4	Q.	Because of his condition, his overall
5	Α.	His overall condition. Unless it was if there
6		was more information that came forward to warrant
7		it, that at that point he seemed stable enough to
8		just watch things for a little bit, be a little
9		bit more conservative at this point.
10	Q.	Okay. Now, where did you go to medical school?
11	A.	In Kansas City.
12	Q.	And what school in Kansas City?
13	А.	It's called the they changed the name. Kansas
14		City College of Osteopathic Medicine is what it
15		was called when I was there, and it is University
16		of Health Sciences now.
17	Q.	Does the osteopathic board certify in the area of
18		gastroenterology?
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	Do you have a Board certification in that area?
21	A.	Yes.
22	Q.	And how long have you been a practicing
23		gastroenterologist?
24	Α.	Since 1984.
25	Q.	Have you ever had your privileges revoked or had

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1		disciplinary action taken against you in any way?
2	А.	No.
3	Q.	Is more than 50 percent of your professional time
4		devoted to the clinical practice of medicine
5		and/or teaching?
б	Α.	Yes.
7		MR. CONWAY: I don't have
8		anything further. Thank you.
9		MR. MOSS: I just have one
10		question.
11		
12		FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION OF
13		<u>R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O.</u>
14		BY MR. MOSS:
15	Q.	You felt that Mr. Guthrie's prognosis was
16		extremely poor following his May 25 procedure?
17		MR. FRASURE: Overall prognosis
18		or just for the endoscopy?
19		MR. MOSS: Overall prognosis.
20	Α.	Let me clarify if I may. On May 23, 2000, when I
21		did his consult, I felt his overall prognosis was
22		very poor. After the two procedures, I didn't
23		see any significant change because I didn't
24		recognize any complications from either
25		procedure, and he seemed about the same situation
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1		two days later as he did before.
2	Q.	So still very poor?
3	A.	So his overall condition was very poor and his
4		prognosis was poor.
5	Q.	You mentioned your discussion with him, and we've
6		touched on this already, I don't want to belabor
7	A LIVE BUT INC	it, but you talked about Mr. Guthrie's answers to
8		your questions about how aggressive he wanted to
9		be if malignancy or other problems
10	A.	Correct.
11	Q.	What did he tell you in that regard? How
12	to the second	aggressive did he want to be?
13		MR. CONWAY: Objection, asked and
14		answered.
15		MR. MOSS: It may have been.
16		MR. FRASURE: You are welcome to
17		refer to your notes if you have it there.
18	Α.	His mental alertness and ability to communicate
19		would fluctuate. When I talked to him over these
20		two days, some days it was a little clearer than
21		other days.
22		When I talked to him on the 23rd when I did
23		his consult, he was lucid, and I didn't know he
24		had a power of attorney at that time but he
25		understood the conversation completely about the

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options that we discussed because I sat down and talked to him about doing nothing, and no endoscopy, but just made him aware that I was called in because his hemoglobin was dropping, because there was blood found in his stools on three different times, so there is some bleeding internally that is going on and what the significance of that was we didn't know, but his hemoglobin had dropped quite a bit. So there would be several choices. One is to do nothing, one is to do barium x-rays, the other one is to do endoscopy to try to search for the site.

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13 He chose the endoscopic approach because of the therapeutic options that you have. He did 14 15 not want to undergo a barium enema x-ray to find 16 a polyp and then have to tolerate another two days of laxatives getting the barium cleaned out 17 18 to do the colonoscopy. So he had given his 19 consent to do the endoscopy with the consent that 20 if a polyp was found to remove it, or if more 21 polyps were found to remove them, to try to 22 cauterize the blood vessel if it was discovered 23 internally that could be the cause of his anemia, 24 but then when I carried the conversation further 25 and said what if the worst is found or what if a

70 major complication happens or if you have a heart 1 or lung failure during the procedure, what do you 2 want me to do. That's when he made it very clear 3 to me that he did not want surgery regardless. 4 He did not want to be resuscitated and on a 5 6 ventilator and CPR performed during the 7 procedure, if that happened. So did he give you a DNR order? Or his power of 8 Ο. 9 attorney? To be honest with you, I didn't know whether it 10 Α. 11 was -- he didn't specifically say DNR to me, but that's what he had directed me to do. I called 12 13 his daughter when I returned to the nursing station and she said there was a power of 14 attorney and I said I need to talk to her, too, 15 16 so we called her and discussed everything and 17 discussed the same options, and she understood 18 all those options and gave permission, telephone 19 permission to go ahead with the endoscopy. 20 Q. And her instructions were consistent with what 21 her father had already told you? 22 Α. Correct. 23 MR. MOSS: That's all I have. 24 Thank you. 25 MR. CONWAY: One last question.

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2	FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION OF
3	<u>R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O.</u>
4	BY MR. CONWAY:
5	Q. Your opinions that you complied with the standard
6	of care, were those opinions to a reasonable
7	degree of medical probability?
8	A. Pardon? I don't understand the question.
9	MR. FRASURE: You want me to
10	whisper in his ear?
11	MR. CONWAY: I thought you would
12	have already done that.
13	THE WITNESS: He didn't.
14	MR. FRASURE: We thought you
15	would not be so nice, but that's all right.
16	MR. CONWAY: Do you want to take
17	a moment with your attorney and then I'll
18	ask you a question?
19	~
20	(Thereupon, a discussion was had off
21	the record.)
22	~ ~ ~ ~
23	Q. Doctor, let me ask you a question real quick.
24	Your opinions that you complied with the
25	standard of care in your treatment of William

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1	Guthrie, they were to a reasonable degree of
2	medical certainty, is that correct?
3	A. Yes.
4	MR. CONWAY: Thank you. I have
5	nothing further.
6	MR. MOSS: Nothing further.
7	MR. FRASURE: Are you having it
8	typed, Tom?
9	MR. CONWAY: Yes. I do need this
10	because I have to get it out to Dr.
11	Slanger.
12	MR. FRASURE: We'll read.
13	
14	
15	R. KIRK ELLIOTT, D.O.
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1	
2	CERTIFICATE
3	
4	The State of Ohio,) SS:
5	County of Cuyahoga.)
6	I, Judith Gage, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, authorized to administer
7	oaths and to take and certify depositions, do
8	hereby certify that the above-named witness was by me, before the giving of their deposition,
9	first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the
10	deposition as above-set forth was reduced to writing by me by means of stenotypy, and was
11	later transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that this is a true record of the
12	testimony given by the witness; that said deposition was taken at the aforementioned time,
13	date and place, pursuant to notice or stipulation of counsel; and that I am not a relative or
14	employee or attorney of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney, or
15	financially interested in this action; that I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I
16	am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D).
17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
18	hand and seal of office, at Cleveland, Ohio, this <u>846</u> day of <u>November</u> A.D. 20 <u>00</u> .
19	
20	Harlith Dale
21	Judith Gage, Notary Public, State of Ohio
22	1750 Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 My commission expires March 24, 2005
23	
24	
25	

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