



Case Study: Clarifying Causation in a Wrongful Death Claim Involving Multiple Comorbidities

Client Profile

Client: Defense counsel representing a national trucking company

Case Type: Wrongful death / commercial vehicle accident

Location: Southeastern U.S.

Case Overview

A 62-year-old male with a history of hypertension, Type II diabetes, and prior cardiac events died following a low-impact motor vehicle collision involving a company truck. The plaintiff's estate alleged that the accident caused fatal cardiac arrhythmia. The defense needed to determine whether the accident materially contributed to the death or if the outcome was unrelated.

The Challenge:

- **Causation in question:** Plaintiff claimed the collision “triggered” an undiagnosed cardiac arrhythmia.
- **Complex medical background:** The decedent had significant cardiac history and multiple pre-existing conditions.
- **Conflicting timelines:** Emergency records and EMS narratives varied in terms of symptom onset and responsiveness.
- **Incomplete documentation:** Postmortem findings were limited, and medical records were disorganized.

Our Approach:

- **Timeline Reconstruction:** We created a medically verified timeline from EMS response to ER discharge, aligned with available cardiac records.
- **Risk Factor Analysis:** Highlighted prior cardiac diagnoses and calculated a clinical risk score to demonstrate predisposition.
- **Medical-Legal Summary:** Delivered an objective narrative detailing the decedent's baseline health, likely clinical trajectory, and the minimal likelihood of the accident being a proximate cause.

- **Record Gap Annotation:** Identified and flagged the lack of conclusive postmortem imaging and clarified what could and could not be inferred.
- **Defense Framing:** Our report offered a medically supported argument for natural death due to progressive cardiac disease—not trauma-related fatality.

The Outcome

- Report cited in deposition prep for the defense cardiology expert.
- Case settled for significantly less than originally demanded, without admission of fault.
- Defense counsel noted that the timeline and clinical risk analysis “shifted the tone of the mediation.”

Client Feedback

“Your work gave us the clarity and confidence to push back on causation. This case could’ve easily turned into a trial without it.”

Call to Action

Handling a wrongful death or catastrophic injury case? Let us clarify the clinical truth.

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