UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

(Richmond Division)

CONRAD BURKE,)
Plaintiff, v.))) CA. #3:20-cv-120-DJN
GEO SECURE SERVICES, LLC t\a GEO CORRECTIONS & DETENTION, LLC)
JAMES BEALE)
Serve: Secretary of the Commonwealth Service of Process Department P.O. Box 2452 Richmond, VA 23218-2452)))
JAYNA SMITH Lawrenceville Correctional Center 1607 Planters Road Lawrenceville, VA 23868,))))
and)
JOHNNETTE CLEATON Health Services Quality Improvement Unit Virginia Department of Corrections 6900 Atmore Drive Richmond, VA 23225,))))
Defendants.)

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Preliminary and Jurisdictional Statement

1. Mr. Burke was an inmate at Lawrenceville Correctional Center ("LLC) in April 2018

when a temporary filling fell out of one of his back teeth, causing him increasingly severe pain.

When he presented himself to the LCC medical staff to address this condition, he was informed

that LCC could not provide any dentist at all, let alone an on-site full-time dentist required by its contract with the Virginia Department of Corrections ("VDOC"). Nor did LCC have an on-site full-time doctor acting as medical director, as required by its VDOC contract. Reflecting the resulting disarray in the provision of health care at LCC, over the course of the half year that Mr. Burke remained at LCC, he never received a replacement filling and suffered ongoing and severe pain as a result. By the time he finally secured treatment after being transferred to Pocahontas Correctional Center in October 2018, his tooth was too damaged to be filled or otherwise repaired and had to be extracted. Mr. Burke now seeks damages from the for-profit correctional corporation running LLC, its warden, its health services administrator, and from an employee of VDOC's Health Services Quality Improvement Unit who purportedly investigated repeated complaints that LCC was not providing dental care to Mr. Burke and falsely reported that everything was fine. Having repeatedly grieved and administratively appealed the denial of dental care, Mr. Burke has exhausted his administrative remedies. This court has jurisdiction over Mr. Burke's constitutional claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331. The court has supplemental jurisdiction over his state tort claims under 28 U.S.C. §1367, as they arise out of the same nucleus of operative facts as his constitutional claims.

Parties Parties

2. Conrad Burke is an inmate in the custody of VDOC. At all relevant times he was an inmate at LCC.

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3. Defendants Geo Secure Services, LLC, sometimes trading as Geo Corrections & Detention LLC, is a private company with headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida, referred to herein as "Geo."¹ Geo runs prisons for profit. At all relevant times, Geo was under contract with VDOC to operate and manage LCC, provide trained staffing, and ensure adequate and appropriate medical and dental care to inmates confined there. In its correctional work on behalf of VDOC, Geo engaged in state action, such that its actions were under color of state law.

4. At all relevant times, defendant James Beale was an employee and agent of Geo serving as the warden at LCC. In that capacity, he held a non-delegable duty to ensure that inmates confined to his facility were not deprived of medical or dental care needed to treat serious medical or dental problems. He was also charged to ensure that medical care at his facility was under the control of an on-site medical doctor acting as medical director, and that a full-time on-site dentist was available to treat prison inmates. Warden Beale was also responsible to investigate, or cause the investigation of, complaints of inadequate medical or dental care to inmates that came to his attention, and to take necessary steps to assure that such situations be addressed promptly and appropriately within applicable standards. In his correctional work on behalf of Geo and VDOC, defendant Beale engaged in state action, such that his actions were under color of state law. He is sued in his individual capacity for damages.

5. Defendant Jayna Smith was at all relevant times an employee and agent of Geo serving as the ranking nurse at LCC. Geo's contract with VDOC required that "A full-time

¹A search on the Virginia State Corporation Commission website for the registered agent of Geo Corrections and Detention LLC leads to an entry for the registered agent for Geo Secure Services, LLC, which appears to be the formal name of the Geo entity at issue. *See*, https://cis.scc.virginia.gov/EntitySearch/BusinessInformation?businessId=680898&source=From EntityResult&isSeries=False.

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physician shall be the medical director." However, during at least Mr. Burke's presence at LCC, Geo did not provide a full-time physician serving as medical director. Rather, at all relevant times the duties of the medical director, if carried out at all, were carried out by defendant Smith as so-called "medical administrator."² As acting "medical administrator," she was responsible for ensuring the availability of doctors, dentists and other medical professionals needed to treat the serious medical and dental needs of inmates within standards imposed by the constitution and tort law, and to ensure the availability of necessary supplies and equipment to that end. She was also responsible for properly investigating complaints of inadequate medical care for LCC inmates that came to her attention, and for taking necessary steps to assure that such situations be addressed promptly and appropriately. In her correctional work on behalf of Geo and VDOC, defendant Smith engaged in state action, such that her actions were under color of state law. She is sued in his individual capacity for damages.

6. Defendant Johnnette Cleaton is an employee of VDOC's Health Services Quality Improvement Unit. At all relevant times she was responsible for investigating complaints of inadequate care at state correctional facilities in Virginia, including LCC, and in a position to take effective steps to ameliorate substandard conditions. She was trained and aware that VDOC holds a non-delegable duty to ensure adequate medical and dental staff, equipment and supplies at all its prisons, including those contracted to for-profit companies to operate. On at least two occasions, defendant Cleaton was presented with reliable complaints that Mr. Burke was being denied necessary dental care and that this condition was causing him serious and ongoing pain.

²Discovery will reveal whether defendant Smith exceeded the scope of her permissible practice in connection with her duties substituting for an M.D. medical director, thereby engaging in nursing malpractice.

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On both occasions she failed to investigate these complaints properly, responding with *pro forma* letters from a standard rejection template, grossly insufficient to the needs of the moment. In one case, defendant Cleaton purported to rely on the assessment of a supposed "Dr. Ezekiel" at LCC – a doctor who had not worked at LCC and had never seen Mr. Burke. She did nothing to ensure LCC was providing Mr. Burke with appropriate care. She is sued in her individual capacity, for her actions taken under color of state law on behalf of Geo and VDOC.

Statement of Facts

7. In January 2018, while housed at Sussex I prison, Mr. Burke was seen for dental treatment, including receipt of a temporary filling in one of his lower back teeth. He was advised that he would receive a permanent filling soon thereafter.

8. Mr. Burke's temporary filling fell out not long after being put in place. Notwithstanding his complaints of pain resulting from the missing filling, he was advised on January 24, 2018 that his pain "did not meet the definition of an emergency." Exhibit 1. He received no emergency care.

9. By March, Mr. Burke had still not received any follow-up dental care. He contacted counsel for assistance.

10. In March, 2018, counsel asked an assistant attorney general ("AAG") who worked on VDOC cases to look into the matter. Mr. Burke was promptly seen by the Sussex I institutional dentist. The dentist provided him with another temporary rather than a permanent filling, advising that a permanent filling would be installed as soon as possible thereafter.

-5-

11. Before any permanent filling was provided, Mr. Burke was transferred from Sussex I to LCC.

12. In April, 2018, not long after his arrival at LCC, the temporary filling in Mr. Burke's tooth fell out.

13. On April 22, 2018, Mr. Burke filed an emergency grievance explaining that a filling had fallen out of his tooth and that it was causing him severe pain. Exhibit 2.

14. At the time Mr. Burke first requested dental care at LCC, and continuing for the following half year while he remained at LCC, Geo was under contract with VDOC, to "provide ... dental services in accordance with A[merican] C[orrectional] A[ssociation] standards, Virginia regulations and federal and state law....," including specifically "24 hour a day, 7 day a week emergency ... dental ... care." Geo was obliged by its contract to have "not less than one on-site full-time dentist and suitable on-site dental support personnel." Geo was also required by contract to have a full-time physician serving as "medical director" of the facility. These specifications were set forth in a part of the contract entitled "Litigation Sensitive Policies and Procedures."

15. In reply to his April 22, 2018 grievance, Mr. Burke was informed: "There's no dentist on staff @ present time. However, the search for one is ongoing." Exhibit 2.

16. On April 23, 2018, Mr. Burke filed a second emergency grievance form seeking prompt dental treatment for extreme pain. Exhibit 3.

17. In reply to his second grievance, Mr. Burke was informed: "Unfortunately, we do not have a dentist at the present time." Exhibit 3.

-6-

18. As a for-profit enterprise, what Geo did not spend on inmate care contributed to its profit as a commercial venture. Not paying to have a dentist on staff, or otherwise readily available, was financially beneficial to the company, however detrimental to its inmates.

19. Mr. Burke filed a complaint on April 23, 2018 setting forth the same request for dental services as before. Exhibit 4. The reply to this complaint, dated two weeks later, confirmed that "at this time we don't have a dentist." He was informed that until a dentist had been located, "pain management" would have to suffice. Exhibit 4.

20. On May 3, 2018, counsel's nurse/paralegal wrote to the AAG who had looked into Mr. Burke's case in March, asking her to ensure that:

Mr. Burke see[] a dentist within the week maximum, even if that means taking him to see a provider offsite. Moreover, the entire medical staff must be put on notice that delaying urgent medical or dental treatment because a specialist is not on staff is unacceptable, both from a medical and a legal perspective.

Exhibit 5.

21. On May 10, 2018, Mr. Burke filed a grievance complaining of the denial of the dental care he required. Exhibit 6 at 1. Mr. Burke's grievance was not accepted for intake, by reason of "emergency grievance receipt" (*sic*). Exhibit 6 at 2.

22. Mr. Burke appealed the denial of intake to the Regional Ombudsman. Exhibit 7.

The appeal was denied without explanation and without right of further appeal. Exhibit 6 at 2.

23. In the meanwhile, having received no response to his nurse/paralegal's May 3 letter,

on May ll, 2018, Mr. Burke's counsel wrote to the same AAG, as follows:

I request your immediate attention to the case of Conrad Burke, who has been left with a missing filling, excruciating pain, and a woefully viable Eighth Amendment claim against a variety of VDOC personnel, including those who initially told him that there was no dentist available to treat him, and now, at another facility,³ those who continue to deny him a dentist to replace the temporary filling he received earlier.

It is (a) your cooperation and, to a lesser extent, that of the VDOC personnel who took some steps to address this abysmal situation, and (b) the press of other work, that have for the time being precluded my filing a lawsuit for him. WHAT'S W[R]ONG WITH THESE PEOPLE????? DO THEY NOT KNOW WHAT A TOOTH[]ACHE IS?

I will do what is necessary to sue them if Burke has not seen a dentist and been properly treated by COB Wednesday. If he is seen Thursday morning I will sue them for damages anyway. Truly, this is outrageous.

Exhibit 8 (emphasis in original).

24. Members of Mr. Burke's family members also contacted VDOC to complain about

the denial of dental care to Mr. Burke. This complaint was purportedly investigated by

defendant Cleaton of VDOC's Health Services Quality Improvement Unit.

25. On or about May 18, 2018, Mr. Burke received a letter from defendant Cleaton to the

effect that she had conducted an investigation and determined that Mr. Burke was "being treated appropriately based on policy, per Dr. Ezekiel." Exhibit 9.

26. There never was a Dr. Ezekiel at LCC, nor had any Dr. Ezekiel ever seen Mr. Burke.

27. On information and belief, defendant Smith's letter to Mr. Burke was a fill-in-the-

blank *pro forma* template designed to reject inmate claims of inadequate health care regardless of merit.

³This was in error; everything of consequence here happened at the same facility: LCC.

28. On or about May 21, 2018 Mr. Burke was seen by Nurse Walker in LCC's medical unit. Nurse Walker's examination confirmed that Mr. Burke's filling was missing, that he was experiencing some swelling, and was complaining of pain. She noted that a referral to the dental department was required, and referred Mr. Burke's dental complaint to the doctor for review. Exhibit 10.

29. Nurse Walker's findings notwithstanding, on or about May 21, 2018, defendant Smith reported to the AAG handling the matter that Mr. Burke "has not been making any complaints of pain or needed dental treatment." Exhibit 11 at 3. This was false and defendant Smith knew it. She provided this false information knowing that the AAG was attempting to resolve a complaint from Mr. Burke's counsel that Mr. Burke was not receiving necessary medical care at LCC, in a misguided, unprofessional and unlawful effort to shield her employer Geo from blame and liability for withholding necessary treatment.

30. The AAG forwarded defendant Smith's information to counsel, not knowing that it was false. Exhibit 11 at 3. Counsel responded: "One of our clients is lying to us," *id.* at 2, followed by "Please tell the nurse that the damages to be sought against her company will be proportional to the passage of time that Conrad went without a dentist." *Id.* at 1.

31. On May 23, 2018, Mr. Burke's lawyer wrote to defendant Beale, as follows:

I represent Conrad Burke, an inmate of your facility. He has been denied necessary dental work for weeks on end, on the representation that your facility did not have a dentist on board. I have communicated about this case at length, for a period of weeks, with the Virginia Attorney General's Office. I understand that at long last a dentist has been procured for your inmates who need dental work, and that the dentist will start work next week. I write with the request that Mr. Burke be advanced to the top of the list of persons who will be seen by the dentist. If there are other emergencies, I recommend that you get a second dentist. What is at issue at this point is no longer whether your company will be sued but how much money will end up being at issue given the never-ending delays in the provision of dental care to this inmate, if not others as well.

See, Exhibit 12.4

32. Defendant Beale did not respond to counsel's letter. Mr. Burke was not seen on an expedited basis.

33. Mr. Burke was finally seen by a dentist at LCC on July 9, 2018. The dentist confirmed once again that Mr. Burke's filling had fallen out. The dentist did not repair the tooth at this visit, however, explaining that the prison did not have the necessary equipment and supplies for him to perform the appropriate procedure.

34. The dentist on July 9, 2018 prescribed antibiotics for Mr. Burke and recommended that he be "rescheduled ASAP." Exhibit 13.

35. Mr. Burke did not receive the antibiotics he had been prescribed, nor was he seen for a follow-up dentist's appointment until October, following his transfer out of LLC.

36. On July 20, 2018, Mr. Burke grieved not having received the antibiotics prescribed for him. Exhibit 14. The response was that his grievance "does not meet the definition for an emergency." He was told that he had been scheduled to see the dentist.

⁴Counsel also wrote to the AAG as follows: "These []for profit "health-care" providers are a catastrophe. Y'all should get rid of them, as they will ensnare your department – which remains constitutionally responsible for the provision of adequate health care – in litigation and bad PR. Conrad has no idea when he will be seen by the dentist. *** Let me ask you please to advise the providers to put Conrad first on the dentist's list. This will minimize their damages....." Exhibit 11 at 1.

37. Mr. Burke did not see a dentist again while at LCC.

38. By letter written July 24, 2018, defendant Cleaton informed Mr. Burke a second time that having reviewed his counsel's complaint and received information from Warden Beale, she found that the care received by Mr. Burke was appropriate and that no violation of policy or procedure had occurred. Exhibit 15. This was false and baseless

39. At all relevant times over the course of almost half a year:

- * All defendants were aware from Mr. Burke, his family, and his lawyer, that he suffered from a serious dental problem causing him ongoing exquisite pain,
- * All defendants except defendant Cleaton were perfectly aware, and defendant Cleaton knew, or with deliberate indifference closed her eyes to the fact, that for months on end, LLC was in default of its obligations to have a dentist and dental services available to inmates as needed,
- * All defendants were aware of their obligations under long-settled law, as well as under their obligations as correctional and healthcare professionals

 and in the case of Geo, under contract as well that they had to provide
 Mr. Burke with timely and effective care to meet his serious dental needs;
- * All defendants washed their hands of Mr. Burke and his problems and failed to provide him, or to cause him to be provided, with necessary and appropriate care,

40. In September 2018 Mr. Burke was transferred from LCC to PocahontasCorrectional Center, a public facility run by VDOC. On or about October 18, 2018 he was seen

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by a dentist there for "toothache with swelling in lower left side." The examination revealed deep caries and apical radiolucent lesion in tooth #18, with tenderness on palpitation. The diagnoses was acute periapical periodontitis of the tooth, with extraction required. Exhibit 16. The tooth was pulled and Mr. Burke prescribed a course of antibiotics for one week. Exhibits 16-17.

41. Defendants' actions set forth above were knowing, wanton, willful, and in callous disregard of Mr. Burke's dire circumstances, of his legal entitlement to necessary care, and of their own known obligations under long settled law and professional standards to provide that care. Defendants elected to mind Geo's expenses and bottom line rather than their inmates' needs. By their actions and inaction in question, defendants displayed deliberate indifference to Mr. Burke's serious dental needs, thereby causing him ongoing severe pain for almost half a year and ultimately the loss of a tooth – all so as to permit Geo to make more money by not spending it on dental services at LCC.

Causes of Action

Count I

Liability of Geo For Unconstitutional Policy, Practice or Usage

42. As operator of a for profit prison for VDOC operating under color of state law, Geo owed a duty to its inmates to provide them with constitutionally sufficient medical care, without regard to its margin of profit as a commercial venture. Geo's failed provision of necessary dental care to Mr. Burke over almost half a year set forth above was, with deliberate indifference, expressly and falsely defended by all defendants as being in compliance with applicable policy and procedures. This failure reflected a policy, practice or usage of Geo not to arrange for the ready provision of dental care to inmates, in derogation of Geo's obligations under color of law, and in derogation of Mr. Burke's rights under the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Count II

Liability of Warden Beale for Cruel and Unusual Punishment

43. Defendant Beale's actions and inaction set forth above evinced his deliberate indifference to Mr. Burke's severe and ongoing pain, knowingly causing and permitting Mr. Burke to be denied necessary dental care for months on end, all in service of his employer's bottom line. In so doing, with deliberate indifference defendant Beale violated Mr. Burke's rights under the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Count III

Liability of Medical Administrator Smith for Cruel and Unusual Punishment

44. Defendant Medical Administrator Smith's actions and inactions set forth above evinced her deliberate indifference to Mr. Burke's severe and ongoing pain, knowingly causing and permitting Mr. Burke to be denied necessary dental care for over almost half a year, all in service of her employer's bottom line. Her knowingly providing false information regarding Mr. Burke's dental condition in response to formal inquiry, as set forth in ¶¶27-29, justified VDOC in not taking otherwise required ameliorative action to ensure that Mr. Burke was receiving the dental care to which he was entitled. In so doing, Medical Administrator Smith violated Mr. Burke's rights under the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution.⁵

Count IV

Liability of Defendant Cleaton for Cruel and Unusual Punishment

43. Defendant Cleaton's actions and inaction set forth above in ¶¶6, 25 and 38 evinced her deliberate indifference to Mr. Burke's duly and responsibly reported severe and ongoing pain and dental crisis. Washing her hands of her professional, legal, and constitutional obligations as an agent of VDOC's Health Services Quality Improvement Unit, she knowingly caused and permitted Mr. Burke to be denied necessary dental care for five months, even after receiving credible information to that effect and having the means to correct the problem. In so doing, defendant Cleaton violated Mr. Burke's rights under the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Count V

Gross Negligence of Geo

45. As operator of a prison housing human beings, Geo owed a duty to its inmates to provide them with at least minimally sufficient medical and dental care. The failed provision of necessary dental care to Mr. Burke almost half a year set forth above reflected Geo's policy, practice or usage not to provide care regardless of need if this was too expensive or too inconvenient, thereby amounting to gross corporate negligence in the discharge of GEO's duty of care to the inmates remanded to its custody.

⁵See n.2 at 4, *supra*, re possible malpractice claims against defendant Smith.

Count VI

Gross Negligence of Warden Beale

46. As warden of a prison housing human beings, defendant Beale owed a duty to its inmates to see that they were provided with at least minimally sufficient medical and dental care. Defendant Beale failed to do so for months on end, despite being on notice from Mr. Burke, his family and his lawyers of his dire need for immediate dental relief. He thereby manifested gross negligence in the discharge of his duty of care owed to Mr. Burke.

Count VII

Gross Negligence of Medical Administrator Smith

47. As medical administrator of a prison housing human beings, defendant Smith owed a duty to its inmates to see that they were provided with at least minimally sufficient medical and dental care. Defendant Smith failed to do so for almost half a year, despite being on notice from Mr. Burke, his family and his lawyers of his dire need for immediate dental relief. She thereby manifested gross negligence in the discharge of her duty of care owed to Mr. Burke.

Count VIII

Gross Negligence of Defendant Cleaton

48. As an employee of VDOCs's Health Services Quality Improvement Unit responsible for investigating and acting on complaints of inadequate care at Virginia correctional facilities, defendant Cleaton owed a duty to VDOC inmates to see that they were provided with at least minimally sufficient medical and dental care. Defendant Cleaton failed to do so for almost half a year, despite being on repeated notice from Mr. Burke, his family and his lawyers of Mr. Burke's dire need for immediate dental relief. She thereby manifested gross negligence in the discharge of her duty of care owed to Mr. Burke.

Count X

Respondeat Superior Liability of Geo

49. Geo is liable under *respondeat superior* for the gross negligence committed by its employees and agents Beale and Smith set forth above.

*

Wherefore, Mr. Burke seeks an order awarding him:

- * actual damages against all defendants appropriate to the proof at trial,
- * punitive damages against all defendants appropriate to the proof at trial,
- * an award of reasonable attorney fees and costs,
- * an injunction barring defendants from denying necessary medical and dental care
 to Mr. Burke, particularly in the event he is sent back to a prison run by Geo, and
- * such further relief as is just.

Respectfully submitted,

CONRAD BURKE,

By counsel

Dated: March 5, 2020

Counsel for Plaintiff:

//s// Victor M. Glasberg Victor M. Glasberg, #16184 Bernadette E. Valdellon, *pro hac vice* pending Victor M. Glasberg & Associates 121 S. Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703.684.1100 / Fax: 703.684.1104 Vmg@robinhoodesq.com bev@robinhoodesq.com BurkeConrad\Pleadings\AmendedComplaint

Certificate of Service

I, Victor M. Glasberg, hereby certify that on this 5th day of March 2020, I electronically filed the foregoing Amended Complaint with the clerk of the court, and served copies via email as indicated below:

Michael G. Matheson, Esq. Thompson McMullan, P.C. 100 Shockoe Slip, 3rd Floor Richmond, VA 23219 <u>mmatheson@t-mlaw.com</u> (Presumed counsel for Defendants Geo and Smith)

Mark Herring, Esq. Office of the Attorney General 202 N. 9th Street Richmond, VA 23219 <u>mherring@oag.state.va.us</u> (Presumed counsel for Defendant Cleaton)

//s// Victor M. Glasberg

Victor M. Glasberg, #16184 Victor M. Glasberg & Associates 121 S. Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703.684.1100 / Fax: 703.684.1104 vmg@robinhoodesq.com

Counsel for Plaintiff

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Emergency Grievance

Revised 6/24/13; Effective Date: July 1, 2013 Operating Procedure 866.1 Attachment 3

124111 **Emergency Grievance** Log # Emergency Grievances are provided for offender reporting and expedited staff responses to allegations that an offender is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse and to situations or conditions which may subject the offender to immediate risk of serious personal injury or irreparable harm. 1201550 S.I.S.P 2B.02 Botton Number Facility Building-Cell/Bed BURKE ONRA Offender Last Name PART A- OFFENDER CLAIM What is the emergency? tooth infection AND Pains. Im Usbearabi **Q** , -50 when eser en 00 +noA-0 # 10 Date/Time fender Signature and Number PART B- STAFF RESPONSE (This part is to be completed and returned to the offender within eight (8) hours.) our grievance does not meet the definition for an emergency. Reason/s: es Not det the do ot and Sick Your grievance has been determined to be an emergency and the following action has been taken: 18 2:40 pm Date/Time Respondent Signature Name/Title Printed PREA - Alleged incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment; Shift Commander, Facility Unit Head or Administrative Duty Officer, and facility PREA Compliance Manager notified Alleged sexual abuse or sexual harassment Will be referred for Investigation Determination by: _ Signature Name/Title Printed Distribution: Original Grievance returned to Offender, Copy forwarded to Institutional Ombudsman/Grievance Coordinator EXHIBIT

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Emergency Grievance 866 F4 4-16

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	Staff Witness Signature:		

Victor M. Glasberg

From:	Cora
Sent:	Thursday, May 3, 2018 7:15 PM
То:	'moshea@oag.state.va.us'
Subject:	Conrad Burke
Attachments:	Emergency Grievance - Burke,Conrad2018-0422.PDF

Dear Ms. O'Shea,

Thank you for looking into the matter of Conrad Burke, the inmate at Sussex I State Prison who was being denied care for a severe toothache. Mr. Burke advises us he was given a temporary filling, which did help to alleviate the pain at the time.

Presumably, the intent was to replace the temporary filling with a more permanent solution in a timely manner. Unfortunately, Mr. Burke was transferred to Lawrenceville Correctional Center before further dental work could be completed. Subsequently, his temporary filling fell out, resulting in excruciating pain.

Mr. Burke made several requests to see a dentist to no avail. Finally, he filed an emergency grievance explaining the situation and the fact that he was suffering "unbearable, excruciating pain" and his concern that an infection might be developing. He asked, simply, to see a dentist. The reply he received from staff—the signature is difficult to read, but the signatory appears to be a registered nurse—is as follows: "There's no dentist on staff @ present time however the search for one is ongoing." I'm attaching a copy of the emergency grievance and response.

Vic Glasberg advises me that you will easily recognize that this response to an inmate's painful and potentially dangerous dental condition represents an appalling violation of his eighth amendment rights. We ask that you please ensure Mr. Burke sees a dentist within the week maximum, even if that means taking him to see a provider offsite. Moreover, the entire medical staff must be put on notice that delaying urgent medical or dental treatment because a specialist is not on staff is unacceptable, both from a medical and a legal perspective.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cora C. Martin, RN, BSN Nurse Paralegal Victor M. Glasberg & Associates 121 S. Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-684-1100 / fax: 703-684-1104 www.robinhoodesq.com



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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Regular Grievance 866_F1_4-17

REGULAR GRIEVANCE

		Log Numb	er:
BURK, CONRAD Last Name, First	/20/550 Number	72-116 Building	72-116
Individuals Involved in Incident		118 date	Cempea Humber
Geo Grosp INC.	Date/Time of Incide		
WHAT IS YOUR COMPLAINT? (Provide information from t	he informal process:	Attach Informal Co	omplaint response or
other documentation of informal process.) IN reference	e to INF-OIL	167 as 24/2	2/18 I
Lodged E.G. # 137220 in Regard	s to A fili	ig that h	AS COME
out my tooth and Tom.			
excruciating, pains T	WASHT	and have	enit been
- seen by No Medica	l/ Devita	l profe	ssisnal
as date below.		REC	EIVED
		MAY	1 8 2019
·		Ombu	dsman Unit
		Easte	ern Region
What action do you want taken? Compensation	Dental	Care	
		.00	
Grievant's Signature: M. C. B.	Date:	04/10/18	
Warden/Superintendent's Office:		RECE	IVED
Date Received:	EVILIDIT	MAY 1	4 2018 U)
1 of 2	EXHIBIT	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Revision Date: 4/28/17
(2	tabbites	C GRIEV	AN CE DEF "

CONRAS BURG # 1201550 L. V. C. C. 1607 PLasTers Rd. RECEIVED Lawrenceville, VA. 23868 MAY 1 8 2018 **Ombudsman Unit** 05-0715-18 Eastern Region WRi Eing an Respectfully to Ale decision INF Enclosed grievance tollows: as The Institutional ombudsman states tollows that Needon to said *Noce*i NOCEIDT 11195 ov Ma 30 ROUI Mare mat 5 Or es as h.5 iev/1 ece ify aveya ITA JA-gov AJC. 2003 EXHIBIT

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Regular Grievance 866_F1_4-17

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING: You are required per Operating Procedure 866.1 Offender Grievance Procedure to attempt to rescive your complaint in good faith prior to filing a regular grievance. You must submit your grievance within 30 days from the date of occurrence or discovery of incident. Only one issue per grievance will be addressed. Write your issue only in the space provided on the grievance form, preferably in ink. Regular grievances are submitted through the institutional mail to the facility Grievance Office and a receipt issued within 2 working days from received date if the grievance is not returned during intake.

INTAKE: Grievances should be accepted for logging unless returned for the following reason(s): Non-Grievable. This issue has been defined as non-grievable in accordance with Operating Procedure 866.1. Disciplinary Procedure. You may appeal hearing decisions, penalties, and/or procedural errors under the provisions in Operating Procedure 861.1, Offender Discipline. Matters beyond the control of the Department of Corrections Does not affect you personally (This issue did not cause you personal loss or harm) Limited. You have been limited by the Warden/Superintendent More than one issue – resubmit with only one issue Expired Filing Period. Grievances are to be filed within 30 calendar days from date of occurrence/incident, or discovery of, the occurrence/incident except in instances: 1) beyond the offender's control or, 2) where a more restrictive time frame has been grieved previously in Grievance # Inquiry on behalf of other offenders. Group Complaints or Petitions. Grievances are to be submitted by individuals. Vulgar/Insolent or Threatening Language. YOU MAY BE CHARGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPERATING PROCEDURE 861.1 OFFENDER DISCIPLINE Photocopy/Carbon Copy. You must submit the original grievance for responses and appeals. Grievances Filed Regarding Another Institution. This grievance is being returned to you for you to submit to: Informal Procedure. You have not used the informal process to respolve your complaint
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Grievances Filed Regarding Another Institution. This grievance is being returned to you for you to submit to: Informal Procedure. You have not used the informal process to resolve your complaint
Request for services
Insufficient Information (Not to include Medical). You need to provide the following information to the Grievance Office within 5 days before the grievance can be processed: <u>Emergency</u> <u>Grievance</u> <u>Mecupt</u>
The issue in the grievance is different from the issue in the informal complaint
Institutional Ombudsman/Grievance Coordinator:

Ontout	disagree with this decision, you have 5 calendar days from date of receipt to submit to the Regional sman for a review of the intake decision. The Regional Ombudsman's decision is final.
Regional	Review of Intake (within 5 working days of receipt)
A	The intake decision is being upheld in accordance with Operating Procedure 866.1 Offender Grievance Procedure.
	The intake decision is being returned to you because the 5 day time limit for review has been exceeded.
	The grievance meets the criteria for intake and is being returned to the Warden/Superintendent for logging.
Regional	Ombudsman: KCooply Date: 51818

WITHDRAWAL OF GRIEVANCE: I wish to voluntarily withdraw this grievance. I understand that by withdrawing this grievance, there will be no further action on this issue nor will I be able to file any other grievance in the future on this issue.

Offender Signature:

and the second

Staff Witness:

Date:

Date:

PM

Victor M. Glasberg

From:	Victor M. Glasberg
Sent:	Friday, May 11, 2018 3:40
То:	O'Shea, Margaret A.
Cc:	Cora
Subject:	Conrad Burke

Margaret,

I request your immediate attention to the case of Conrad Burke, who has been left with a missing filling, excruciating pain, and a woefully viable Eighth Amendment claim against a variety of VDOC personnel, including those who initially told him that there was no dentist available to treat him, and now, at another facility, those who continue to deny him a dentist to replace the temporary filling he received earlier.

It is (a) your cooperation and, to a lesser extent, that of the VDOC personnel who took some steps to address this abysmal situation, and (b) the press of other work, that have for the time being precluded my filing a lawsuit for him. WHAT'S WONG WITH THESE PEOPLE????? DO THEY NOT KNOW WHAT A TOOTHJACHE IS?

I will do what is necessary to sue them if Burke has not seen a dentist and been properly treated by COB Wednesday. If he is seen Thursday morning I will sue them for damages anyway. Truly, this is outrageous.

Thank you, and have a nice weekend.

Vic

Victor M. Glasberg & Associates 121 S. Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703.684.1100 Fax: 684.1104 vmg@robinhoodesq.com www.robinhoodesq.com



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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

HAROLD W. CLARKE DIRECTOR Department of Corrections

P. O. BOX 26963 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261 (804) 674-3000

May 17, 2018

Conrad Burke 1201550 Lawrenceville Correctional Center 1607 Planters Road Lawrenceville, VA 23868

Dear Mr. Burke,

Health Services received an inquiry from your family member related to your medical care on May 09, 2018. The following complaint of not being treated for bleeding of the gums has been reviewed.

Based on the information provided and upon further investigation we have determined that you are being treated appropriately based on policy, per Dr. Ezekiel.

If you have any further issues, please resubmit a sick call request for further evaluation of your medical needs and treatment plan. You are encouraged to follow the recommendations of the health care staff as well. There is no violation of policy/procedure regarding this issue. No further action is needed from this level.

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With kind_regards,

Ørginia Department of Corrections Health Services Quality Improvement Unit



Nursing Evaluation Tool:

Dental Complaint

Facility: LYCE	
Inmate Name: Burke	Concert
Inmate Number: 1201550	First MI
Date of Report: 5 121 12018	Time Seen: 173/ AM / PM cited on
	Time Seen: 1731 AM / PM Circle One
Complaint: Chief Complaint(s): Filling fellout	
Onset: <u>4-20-12</u>	
History: Here today because he has a (Continue of back of noossen) and he has been having rain. Staded h	back bottom filling that has fell out e has used oral gel and that did not help
is the problem: New Chronic Problem related to: Recentinjury sustained in altercation with custody staff, or other inmate: Dental Pain: Right: Upper Back Upper Front Lower Bac	t trauma Recent dental work Chere if edditional notes on back NO VES (Requires notification of correctional staff) k Left: Upper Back Upper Front Lower Back
Type of Pain: Aching I Throbbing I Dull Sharp Scon Sensitive to Hot or Cold: No I Hot Cold I Sensitive to be Associated Symptoms: Sinus problems I Difficulty chewing I	oth Hot & Cold Pain Scale: (1-10)
Observation: Vital Signs: T: 97 P: 103 R	R: 18 B/P: 135 / 32 wt 167.5
Visual evidence of missing filling INO Sa Yes Swell	e external swelling Ing/redness/pus surrounding affected tooth: INO Yes Yes ance of trauma/injury to jaw/face INO Yes
 Additional Examination: Lower left side, bottom bot Continue on beg if necessary) Swelling - Offercler schedard that when he bit offered Tylerol and motion but refused due Intervention: (Referral Status) Referral Not Required 	es down that one la ter the talk and
Referral Regulred due to the following: (Check all that app	(v)
Evidence C Evidence	of pus collection or swelling
	ntal surgery/procedure injury/trauma to jaw
Other:	
(Describe) Comment: You should contact a physician and/or a nursing super of the appropriate care to be given.	visor if you have any concerns about the status of the patient or are unsure
Check All That Apply: For tooth pain; instruct patient to avoid hot/cold food; to chew on the o	
Warm rinses PRN (Note: DO NOT apply warm compress to outside of	face for dental abscess)
Cold Compress PRN for minor trauma Instructions to return if condition worsens.	
Education: The patient demonstrates an understanding of the nature o well as appropriate follow-up. DIYES DINO (if NO then schedule p	I their medical condition and instructions regarding what they should do as
Other: Dehum To NISC PRAI (Describe)	auent for appropriate follow-up visits)
OTC Medications given INO IYES (If Yes List):	
Referral: D NO DYES (If Yes, Whom/Where): Dontal De	Dartment MD:
Referral Type: C Routine C Urgent C Emergent (if emergent who w	
L' Crouf to Muse Spanture for recitely	EXHIBIT 2008

Victor M. Glasberg

From: Victor M. Glasberg Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:49 AM To: O'Shea,Margaret A. <<u>MOShea@oag.state.va.us</u>> Cc: Cora <<u>CMartin@robinhoodesq.com</u>> Subject: RE: Conrad Burke

Margaret,

I spoke with Conrad. He was offered only Tylenol for his pain. He has lesions on his liver and has been directed never to take Tylenol. This should be in his medical chart. He so advised the nurse who saw him. She apparently did not communicate his reasons to you, thus giving rise to the inference, suggested by your email below, that Conrad was exaggerating his pain or being uncooperative. I will address that in the lawsuit. These for-for profit "health-care" providers are a catastrophe. Y'all should get rid of them, as they will ensnare your department -- which remains constitutionally responsible for the provision of adequate health care -- in litigation and bad PR.

Conrad has no idea when he will be seen by the dentist. I told him that I expected it would be in several days, as the health-care provider has, now, apparently deigned to identify a dentist. Let me ask you please to advise the providers to put Conrad first on the dentist's list. This will minimize their damages and facilitate the resolution of the forthcoming litigation, which will not be filed until Conrad's dental work is properly finalized.

Can you kindly confirm the name and complete contact information for the Lawrenceville health-care provider.

Thank you.

Vic

Victor M. Glasberg & Associates 121 S. Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703.684.1100 Fax: 684.1104 vmg@robinhoodesq.com www.robinhoodesq.com

From: Victor M. Glasberg Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 3:37 PM To: 'O'Shea, Margaret A.' <<u>MOShea@oag.state.va.us</u>> Cc: Cora <<u>CMartin@robinhoodesq.com</u>> Subject: RE: Conrad Burke

Thanks, Margaret.

	EXHIBIT	
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I find the information on Conrad Burke's refusal of pain meds to be bizarre and hard to believe. Please tell the nurse that the damages to be sought against her company will be proportional to the passage of time that Conrad went without a dentist. SO limiting them is in their hands. Please also ask here to confirm to you as soon as Conrad has an appointment, when he goes to his appointment, and what the result of that appointment is. Alternatively -- better,

yet -- please give me her name and email address, as well as the contact information for the, um, health care provider at the prison, and I will inquire myself.

Vic

Victor M. Glasberg & Associates 121 S. Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703.684.1100 Fax: 684.1104 vmg@robinhoodesq.com www.robinhoodesq.com

From: O'Shea, Margaret A. <<u>MOShea@oag.state.va.us</u>> Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 3:05 PM To: Victor M. Glasberg <<u>VMG@robinhoodesq.com</u>> Subject: RE: Conrad Burke

To follow up, the nurse at Lawrenceville said that Mr. Burke was again evaluated by a nurse yesterday evening, and he was offered pain medication, which he refused. Mr. Burke will be scheduled for a visit with the dentist, who, as noted, will begin seeing patients next week. I have asked her to confirm a date for that appointment.

Margaret A. O'Shea Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 202 North 9th Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 225-2206 Office MOShea@oag.state.va.us http://www.ag.virginia.gov



From: Victor M. Glasberg [mailto:VMG@robinhoodesq.com] Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 4:38 PM To: O'Shea, Margaret A. Subject: RE: Conrad Burke

Thank you for getting back to me.

One of our clients is lying to us.

Can you imagine.

Vic

Alexandria, VA 22314 703.684.1100 Fax: 684.1104 vmg@robinhoodesq.com www.robinhoodesq.com

From: O'Shea, Margaret A. <<u>MOShea@oag.state.va.us</u>> Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 4:34 PM To: Victor M. Glasberg <<u>VMG@robinhoodesq.com</u>> Subject: RE: Conrad Burke

Vic –

To follow up, I have spoken with a supervising nurse at Lawrenceville, and she informed me that she has personally seen Mr. Burke several times over the past three weeks (including today), and he has not been making any complaints of pain or needed dental treatment.

However, she is calling him back down to the medical department tonight just to make sure he is fine – At her request, I forwarded to her the previously-filed emergency grievance, so that she would have it in hand when she was talking to him.

She said she would be back with me by mid-day tomorrow to update me as to Mr. Burke's status.

Also, she told me that the facility has just finished hiring a new dentist, who is scheduled to start next week.

I will be back in touch tomorrow to let you know whether Mr. Burke is still requesting to be seen by a dentist, and if so, when his appointment has been scheduled.

Thanks -

Margaret A. O'Shea Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 202 North 9th Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 225-2206 Office MOShea@oag.state.va.us http://www.ag.virginia.gov



From: Victor M. Glasberg [mailto:VMG@robinhoodesq.com] Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 12:19 PM To: O'Shea, Margaret A. Subject: Conrad Burke

11

Margaret --

Case 3:20-cv-00120-DJN Document 1-12 Filed 02/24/20 Page 1 of 1 PageID# 32

Victor M. Glasberg & Associates ATTORNEYS

121 South Columbus Street Alexandria VA 22314 telephone: (703) 684-1100 fax: (703) 684-1104 www.robinhoodesq.com

Victor M. Glasberg vmg@robinhoodesq.com

Maxwelle C. Sokol msokol@robinhoodesq.com

Of Counsel Stephen G. Cochran Bruce A. Fredrickson

May 23, 2018

James Beale, Warden Lawrenceville Correctional Center 1607 Planters Road Lawrenceville, VA 23868

Dear Warden Beale:

I represent Conrad Burke, an inmate of your facility. He has been denied necessary dental work for weeks on end, on the representation that your facility did not have a dentist on board. I have communicated about this case at length, for a period of weeks, with the Virginia Attorney General's Office. I understand that at long last a dentist has been procured for your inmates who need dental work, and that the dentist will start work next week. I write with the request that Mr. Burke be advanced to the top of the list of persons who will be seen by the dentist. If there are other emergencies, I recommend that you get a second dentist.

What is at issue at this point is no longer whether your company will be sued, but how much money will end up being at issue given the never-ending delays in the provision of dental care to this inmate, if not others as well.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincere ctor M. Glasberg

cc: Conrad Burke Margaret O'Shea, Esq.



URGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECT 'S BUILE CONSCIO OL ting Procedure #720.6 Attachment #3 Dental Chart TREATMENT SIGNATURE & TITLE

DATE/TIME	FACILITY		
		Tatent present to cem-	
7/9/18	WCC		-
14/0		to see patient Burke. Potent	
		complain of pain m Q.3	•
		Clinical. #17 #18. Filting	
		vere done at Sussex I	*
		Februry and March 2018. Rx Amoxicellin 500-16/the. bid	722 05
		Rx Amoxicium Sco 101 h / Flithigh	21 Stand
		Ibiprosen 400/10hbs/ Edil tab b	e - parre
· · ·		Rx: Paradox	
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EXHIBIT

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Date: 6/5/07 2012

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, Case 3:20-cv-00120-DJN Document 1-14 Filed 02/24/20 Page 1 of 1 PageID# 34

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Emergency Grievance 866 F4_4-	16
Emergency Grievance Log # 137558 Emergency Grievances are provided for offender reporting and expedited staff responses to allegations that an offender is subject a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse and to situations or conditions which may subject the offender to immediate risk serious personal injury or irreparable harm.	to of
BURKE CONRAD 1201550 LVCC 72-116 Offender Last Name First Number Facility Building-Cell/Bed	_
What is the emergency? - haven't received the antibiotics that was ordered by Dental on 07-09-18	+
	2
07-20-18 9:50 AM M. CEB # 1201550 Date/Time	_
Date/Time Offender Signature and Number PART B- STAFF RESPONSE (This part is to be completed and returned to the offender within eight (8) hours.) Vour grievance does not meet the definition for an emergency. Action Taken/Recommended:	_
Submit Informal Complaint Evaluated by Medical: Date Seen Submit Sick Call Request Send an Offender Request To: Submit Request to Dental Other (Provide detailed explanation below)	_
you have been perfeduled to see dental	_
Your grievance has been determined to be an emergency and the following action has been taken: Sent to Hospital: Date Transported Other (Provide detailed explanation below)	_
	-
<u>7/20/18 1230 pm TV marting T. Jarrating</u> Date/Time Respondent Signature Name/Title Printed	_
PREA - Alleged incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment; Shift Commander, Facility Unit Head or Administrative Duty Officer, and facility PREA Compliance Manager notified Alleged sexual abuse or sexual harassment Will be referred for Investigation	
Alleged sexual abuse or sexual harassment Will be referred for Investigation Determination by:	-

Distribution: Original Grievance returned to Offender vy forwarded to Institutional Ombudsman/Grievance Coordinator



Case 3:20-cv-00120-DJN Document 1-15 Filed 02/24/20 Page 1 of 1 PageID# 35



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

HAROLD W. CLARKE DIRECTOR

Department of Corrections

P. O. BOX 26963 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261 (804) 674-3000

July 24, 2018

Conrad Burke 1201550 Lawrenceville Correctional Center 1607 Planters Road Lawrenceville, VA 23868

Dear Mr. Burke,

Health Services received an inquiry from your Lawyer regarding your medical care on July 9, 2018. The following complaint of being unable to see a Dentist has been reviewed.

Based on the information provided and upon further investigation we have determined that you were evaluated on July 10 for your dental needs, per Warden Beale.

If you have any medical issues, please resubmit a sick call request for further evaluation of your medical needs and treatment plan. You are encouraged to follow the recommendations of the health care staff as well. There is no violation of policy/procedure regarding this issue. No further action is needed from this level.

With kind regards,

Wrginia Department of Corrections Health Services Quality Improvement Unit



. Case 3:20-cv-00120-DJN Document 1-16 Filed 02/24/20 Page 1 of 1 PageID# 36

	RGINIA DEPARTMENT OF COR	C	Effective Date: October 1, 201 Procedure 720.6 Attachment
0. 19890	me Burke Conrad #120155		ρ. Τ
	E FACILITY TREATM		SIGNATURE & TTTL
10-17-18		g on lowa left	्रम् इन्स् इन्स्
10:30	Side, Tooth #18 ha	& temporary filling	
	placed 8 months as	0	24
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	P: RM Hyr, 4% septo come		
·	extraction #18 2 force	1 post on just.	v3
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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Consent for Oral Surgery and Special Dental Procedures 720_F31_7-13
Consent for Oral Surgery and Special Dental Procedures I, (Offender Name) L, (Offender Name) L, (Offender Number) Currently assigned to (Facility) Knowing that I require the Dental, Surgical propertial Procedure as follows (describe in layman's terms): L do hereby authorize I do he
 The risks involved in the above described procedure include but are not limited to: A. Post-operative discomfort, swelling, bruising and/or bleeding. Post-operative restricted mouth opening. Injury to corner of the mouth. B. Post-operative infection, dry socket, injury to adjacent teeth/fillings, bone splinters, sharp ridges, fractures to jaw. C. Decision to leave root pieces in the jaw/ maxillary sinus when its removal requires extensive surgery or would endanger adjacent structures. D. Opening into the maxillary sinus which may require additional medications and/or surgical procedures. E. Injury to nerve resulting in numbness or tingling of the lip, tongue, gums, etc. that may be temporary or permanent. F. Allergic reaction to drugs administered.
The nature and purpose of the procedure, possible alternatives methods of treatment, the risk involved and the possibility of complications have been fully explained to me.
I consent to the administration of such anesthetics and other medications as may be considered necessary or advisable with the exception of The nature and purpose of the anesthetic and the risks involved and the possibility of complications have been explained to me.
I consent to the disposal of, or retention by, the authorities of the Department of Corrections of any tissue, or other material which may be removed during the procedure.
I acknowledge that no guarantees or assurances have been made to me as to the results that may be obtained.
I have read or had explained to me this consent form and I fully understand the above procedure and the risk.
Hepatitis B and C/HIV Testing: According to Virginia law, any patient to whose body fluids a health care worker has been exposed, will be deemed to have consented to Hepatitis B and C/HIV testing.
Image: Signature Image: Signature Image: Signature Image: Signature Witness Signature Witness Signature Date
EXHIBIT

Revision Date: 6/5/07