

JANUARY 2002

SETTLEMENT - U.S. DISTRICT COURT - WESTERN DISTRICT

KARL PARRICK V. STATE OF WASHINGTON, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL;  
SCOTT BLONIEN, CHIEF OF CRIMINAL DIVISION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S  
OFFICE; DAVID WATERBURY, DIRECTOR OF MFCU; AND CURTIS EDWARDS

Number: CO1-5065(RJB) FDB

Settlement Date: 12/04/01

Plff Atty: David P. Moody; Stephanie Bloomfield of Gordon, Thomas  
Honeywell, Malanca, Peterson & Daheim (Seattle)

Def. Atty: James P. Richmond, Assistance Attorney General (Olympia)

Plff Med.: William C. Holliday MD (Psychiatrist) Bellevue

Def. Med.: John Hamm MD (Psychiatrist) Seattle

Plff Exp.: D.P. Van Blaricom (Police/Criminal Investigations &  
Practices) Bellevue

Mediator: Theresa Wakeen

RETALIATION

EMOTIONAL DISTRESS; POST TRAUMATIC STRESS SYNDROME

2/00 - Plff, male age 60, lead patient abuse investigator for Def. Attorney's General Office's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). Prior to working for the MFCU, Plff spent twenty-three years as a police officer for the Los Angeles Police Department. The MFCU is responsible for policing both Medicaid providers and Medicaid program expenditures throughout the State of Washington. As a resident abuse investigator for the MFCU, Plff was charged with investigating crimes including rape, sodomy, theft, assault, neglect and homicide in approximately 350 Medicaid-funded Nursing Homes and 2,500 state-licensed Adult Family Homes throughout the State of Washington. While serving as an investigator for the attorney General's office, Plff investigated and uncovered countless horrific cases of abuse in many state-monitored and licensed facilities throughout Washington. Plff served as the lead investigator for Def.'s office in the **Beckman v. State of Washington** litigation, **Linda David v. State of Washington** litigation and the **Terry Wisman v. State of Washington** litigation. All of these cases dealt with horrific examples of abuse and neglect. More importantly, these cases exposed considerable negligence on the part of the State of Washington Department of Social Health services. The abuse Plff uncovered in these three cases alone resulted in jury verdicts and settlements against Def. in excess of twenty-nine (29) million dollars. Plff contended he began to experience retaliation from the management of the MFCU shortly after the **Beckman v. State of Washington** and **Linda David v. State of Washington** cases when he began appearing in written and television media throughout the State of Washington.

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SETTLEMENT - U.S. DISTRICT COURT - WESTERN DISTRICT - CONT'D

**Facts - Cont'd:**

Plff was an outspoken victim advocate and was often quoted in the media as being critical of Def.'s commitment to protecting victims of abuse in the State of Washington. Plff's investigation reports and trial testimony in these matters highlighted the State's negligence in these high profile cases and ultimately cost the Department of Social and Health Services millions and millions of dollars. Plff's supervisors at the Attorney General's office began to severely restrict Plff's activities and prevented Plff from effectively performing his duties. There was growing concern that Plff would continue to expose horrific examples of abuse and DSHS negligence, should Plff continue with his investigative work. Plff contended he was told not to put his opinions in reports, not to talk to others regarding his findings, and was generally treated like a pariah by his supervisors. Despite continual laudatory annual performance reviews, Plff's supervisors accused him of exercising poor judgement and took away his telecommuting privileges. Plff's supervisors frequently closed cases dealing with serious accusations of sexual and physical abuse without Plff's knowledge, effectively preventing him from performing any investigation. This retaliation was aimed at making it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for Plff to respond to crime scenes in a timely manner. The retaliation against Plff escalated for a period of two (2) years until he was essentially stripped of his ability to adequately perform his duties.

**Injuries:** Plff's mental health and well-being was so severally impacted by this behavior that he was forced to leave Def.'s office due to medical disability. Emotional trauma; onset of post traumatic stress syndrome.

**Specials:** Med. \$3,000; Lost Wages \$75,000.

**RESULT:** PLAINTIFF SETTLEMENT for \$450,000. (Plff's attorney reports this is the largest employment settlement ever paid by State of Washington, Office of the Attorney General.)