2	SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU: TRIAL TERM PART 19
3 4	x Dennis Powers A/K/A DENNIS WOODY, IN HIS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY AND AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF DARYL DAVID WOODY,
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6	Plaintiff, Index No.
7	017721/2011 -v-
8	Nassau County, Nassau County Correctional -TRIAL- Center (NCCC), Sgt. Christopher S. Edmond,
9	Shield #76, Patrick McCaffrey, #2770, Enrique Sewer, #2664, Matthew Ward,
10	Shield #2945, William Day, Shield #2714
11	Nepolean Melendez, #2430, Delatora Wilson, #827, Sgt, Gerard Heinz, #49, Lt. Philip Zorn, #95, Nassau County Sheriff's
12	Department, Nassau County Police Department, Det. Robert J. Lashinsky, Sgt. John C.
13	Deignan, P.O. Larry A. Brue, Nassau County
14	Medical Center A/K/A Nassau University Medical Center, Sheriff Michael J. Sposato, Jail
15	Capt. Michael Golio, Dr. Fines, Dr. Rubina Boparal, Dr. Sikander Subana, Damir Huremovic
16	M.D., Dr. Deepti Gupta, Dr. Kishore Kumar, Dr. K.A., Whose Identity is Presently Unknown,
	Margaret Astheus R.N., Kathleen A. Haran, R.N., And Certain John and Jane Does 1-50 Who
17	Identities Are Presently Unknown To The Plaintiffs,
18	Defendants.
19	x 100 Supreme Court Drive
20	Mineola, New York
21	May 20, 2025 BEFORE:
22	Hon. EILEEN DALY-SAPRAICONE, Justice of the Supreme Court County of Nassau
23	_
24	(Appearances on next page.)
25	JEAN DEBIASE, RPR SENIOR COURT REPORTER

2	APPEARANCES:
3	LAW OFFICE OF VINCENT BIANCO, ESQ., P.C. Attorney for Plaintiff
4	1025 Old Country Road, Suite 110 Westbury, New York 11590
5	BY: VINCENT BIANCO, ESQ.
6	
7	BERKMAN, HENOCH, PETERSON & PEDDY, P.C. Attorneys for Nassau County Defendants
8	400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 320 Garden City, New York 11530
9	BY: CATHERINE MARTYN, ESQ.
.0	NICHOLAS TUFFARELLI, ESQ.
11	LAW OFFICES OF EDWARD J. TROY
L2	Attorney for Hospital Defendants 44 Broadway
L3	Greenlawn, New York 11740 BY: ALEXANDER V. SANSONE, ESQ.
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THE COURT CLERK: For the record, Index Number 017721 of 2011, Dennis Powers et. al. against Nassau County et. al.

May we have appearances starting with counsel for plaintiff.

MR. BIANCO: My name is Vincent Bianco. My address is 1025 Old Country Road, Westbury, New York 11750. Good morning.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MS. MARTYN: Catherine Martyn, Berkman, Henoch, 400 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, New York for the county and county defendants.

MR. TUFFARELLI: Nicholas Tuffarelli, Berkman, Henoch, Peterson & Peddy for the Nassau County defendants.

MR. SANSONE: Alexander Sansone, Law Office of Edward Troy, 44 Broadway, Greenlawn, New York for the Nassau University Medical Center and the medical defendants. Good morning, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Good morning.

It's the Court's understanding that at this time there is no resolution of this matter, is that correct?

MR. BIANCO: Correct.

THE COURT: Okay. The Court is marking as Court Exhibit Number I, case law supporting dismissal filed with

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the Court yesterday by the county defendants.

THE COURT CLERK: So marked.

THE COURT: The Court has marked the submissions by the county defendants as Court Exhibit I. At this point, the Court is only considering the county's application. The Court has reviewed the case law contained in Court Exhibit Number One, has heard argument by counsel for the county defendants on their application for a directed verdict. The Court has also heard opposition from plaintiff's counsel. Again, at this point, the Court is going to rule on the county's application only.

It is unfortunate that the passing of Mr. Woody occurred. The Court notes that the testimony of plaintiff's expert, Mr. Horn, has been stricken as no opinion testimony was elicited. The issue before the Court which has been presented to the jury is not a question of negligence or malpractice. The issue before the jury is a 1983 claim. Viewing the facts as presented with evidence and testimony in the light most favorable to the plaintiffs, there is no reasonable basis for a jury to find that any of the following defendants, Nassau County, County of Nassau Correctional Center, Sergeant Christopher Edmond, Patrick McCaffrey, Enrique Sewer, Matthew Ward,

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William Day, Napolean Melendez, Delatora Wilson, Gerard Heinz, Lieutenant Philip Zorn, Nassau County Sheriff's Department, Nassau County Police Department, Detective Robert J. Lashinshy, Sergeant John Deignan, Police Officer Larry A. Brue, Sheriff Michael J. Sposato, Jail Captain Michael Golio exhibited deliberate indifference to Mr. Woody.

So the Court is clear, viewing the facts as presented through the evidence and testimony in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, there is no reasonable basis for a jury to find that any of the just named defendants exhibited deliberate indifference to Mr. Woody. The evidence and testimony elicited by plaintiff has failed to prove by a preponderance of evidence that any of these named defendants violated decedent's 14th Amendment right to reasonable medical care, and as a pretrial detainee awaiting trial on criminal charges by being deliberately indifferent to a serious medical condition or decedent's needs. The evidence and testimony elicited also has failed to prove that the county defendants as named violated the decedent's constitutional rights by having a custom or practice of not adequately training its employees to protect decedent from self injury or suicide. The Court finds there is no reasonable basis for the jury

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to find that the county or county defendants as named

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violated the decedent's constitutional rights. application by the county defendants for a directed verdict is granted in its entirety. Counsel, you have your exception.

MR. BIANCO: If I may, Your Honor, just for the record.

THE COURT: Yes, in a moment.

The Court is going to reconvene at 2:00 p.m. as it relates to the other application which is pending for the remaining defendants.

Counsel, you may be heard.

MR. BIANCO: Simply for the record, judge.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. BIANCO: Note my exception to the ruling. believe that the plaintiff's evidence when viewed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, clearly establishes a prima facie case in the 1983 claim against the defendant county. Testimony elicited through their witnesses called, their own employees, clearly establishes that Mr. Woody was in distress, did express that distress. There are no professional witnesses that need to determine whether or not capsaicin spray would be painful or whether his cries for medication or suffering. In addition, for

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the county defendants, the claim that was made was that the policy or practice that was violated was ignorance, deliberate ignorance to an existing law. That would be the basis, partially, of my objection to your ruling.

Thank you very much.

THE COURT: Okay. You have your exception counsel.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you.

THE COURT: And as the Court indicated, the Court will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. as it relates to the application that is now standing for the remaining defendants.

Counsel remaining, approach. Counsel that have been granted their application are free to go.

Have a good day.

MS. MARTYN: Thank you, Your Honor.

(Whereupon, Ms. Martyn and Mr. Tuffarelli leave courtroom.)

(Whereupon, a lunch recess was taken.)

THE COURT CLERK: Second call, Index Number 017721 of 2011, Dennis Powers, et al.

May we have appearances for counsel for the plaintiffs for the afternoon session.

MR. BIANCO: My name is Vincent Bianco. My

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address is 1025 Old County Road, Westbury, New York.

Good afternoon.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

MR. SANSONE: Alexander Sansone, Law Offices of Edward Troy, 44 Broadway, Greenlawn, New York for the Nassau University Medical Center and the medical defendants.

Good afternoon, Your Honor.

THE COURT: We're going to mark submission by Nassau County medical defendants as Court Exhibit II.

(Court Exhibit II is marked.)

THE COURT: The Court has marked the submission by Nassau University Medical Center and the medical defendants as Court Exhibit II.

Counsel can be seated.

The Court notes that prior to opening statements, based on a lack of proper service, defendant Dr. K-A was removed from the caption on consent and Margaret Astheus, R.N. was removed by the Court after defendant's application as Margaret Astheus is not a name of an employee of Nassau County Medical Center a/k/a Nassau University Medical Center, was not an employee at the time of the events giving rise to the plaintiff's lawsuit.

The issue before the Court which has been presented to the jury is not a question of negligence or malpractice. The issue before the jury is a Section 1983 claim. As an initial matter, the Court notes that based on a reading of the complaint, it appears that plaintiff views and treats the county, Nassau County Correctional Center and NUMC, which is Nassau University Medical Center, as the same entity. However, as this Court has previously granted the county's application for a directed verdict, it is clear that the county, including Nassau County Correctional Center and NUMC, which is Nassau University Medical Center, also known as Nassau County Medical Center, are separate and distinct entities for the purpose of Section 1983 and the complaint's other causes of action.

As to the plaintiff's second cause of action entitled Monell Claim, the Court finds that the evidence and testimony elicited has failed to prove that Nassau County Medical Center a/k/a Nassau University Medical Center or any of the individually named medical defendants, Dr. Firdous, Dr. Rubina Boparai, Dr. Sikandra Surana (sic), Dr. Damir Huremovic M.D., Dr. Deepta Gupta, Dr. Kishore Kumar or Katherine A. Haran R.N. violated the decedent's constitutional rights by having a custom or

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practice of not adequately training its employees to protect decedent from self injury or suicide.

Turning to plaintiff's first cause of action under Section 1983, the Court finds that viewing the facts presented through the evidence and testimony and in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, there is no reasonable basis for a jury to find that any of the following defendants; Dr. Firdous, Dr. Rubina Boparai, Dr. Sirander Surana (sic), Dr. Deepta Gupta, Dr. Kishore Kumar or Katherine A. Haran R.N. exhibited deliberate indifference to Mr. Woody. The evidence and testimony elicited by plaintiff has failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that any of the above-named individual defendants violated the decedent's 14th Amendment rights as alleged in the plaintiff's first cause of action by being deliberately indifferent to a serious medical condition or decedent's needs. As such, the Court grants counsel's application, in part, as to the above-named individual defendants for a directed verdict.

This Court denies, at this time, and reserves decision with respect to the following defendants: Nassau County Medical Center a/k/a Nassau University Medical Center and defendant, Damir Huremovic M.D. This matter will proceed to the jury on the issue of plaintiff's 1983

action for medical indifference, only, as to defendant's Nassau County Medical Center a/k/a Nassau University Medical Center and defendant, Damir Huremovic M.D. Both sides have their exception.

MR. BIANCO: Your Honor, if I may, just to expand, at the close of plaintiff's case, the Court's dismissal against the named defendant is respectfully objected to as the plaintiff has presented sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case on the 1983 claim against all dismissed defendants. The record, including testimony by all of these actual witnesses supports all required elements under Section 1983 and the Court's failure to view this evidence in the light most favorable to the plaintiffs constitutes reversible error; therefore, I make a further objection to your ruling. Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. Sansone, do you want to be heard?

MR. SANSONE: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. The Court is marking as Court Exhibit Number III plaintiff's proposed verdict sheet and Court Exhibit Number IV, the medical defendant's proposed verdict sheet.

(Court Exhibits III and IV are marked.)

THE COURT: Counsel approach.

(Whereupon, a bench conference takes place.)

THE COURT: The Court is ordering that the caption be amended to reflect the remaining parties in the case.

Based on counsel's submission to the Court and the Court's ruling, the Court has amended the proposed verdict sheet and will give a sample to counsel.

Counsel, please review. Once there's an agreement, then we'll mark the final version and I'll take those versions back from you until there is a final version.

(Court officer hands to Mr. Bianco and Mr. Sansone.)

MR. SANSONE: Thank you.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you.

THE COURT: Take an opportunity to read it.

MR. BIANCO: I'm just going to step back if you don't mind.

THE COURT: Sure.

(Mr. Bianco confers with his staff.)

MR. SANSONE: In the first instance, I would object to the Nassau County Medical Center a/k/a Nassau University Medical Center as being included.

The Court ruled that there was no Monell claim,

so if there's no Monell claim, the hospital, itself, cannot be responsible for a rights violation. The whole purpose of a Monell claim is to hold somebody accountable for improper policy, procedure or training. The Court's already ruled that there has been no such finding in this case, so I would object to the hospital being included in the verdict sheet since there's no basis for an award of damages and they can't be found liable. It would seem to me the only issue that would go to the jury based upon the Court's ruling would be with respect to what Dr. Hurmervic did or did not do. I don't think you can legally charge the jury to award damages against the hospital.

MR. BIANCO: If I may, judge.

I believe that the connection between the 1983 and the Monell claim, again, 1983 actions can't exist in isolation. Any question of whether someone's civil rights have been violated, the next question must be asked would be which one. In this case, the Monell claim would survive against Nassau University Medical Center. If the argument is going to be that the municipality or, therefore, the hospital's adherence to, let's say, HIPAA, improperly delayed or prevented life-saving action, therein lies the violation of the constitutional right. So to say that there is no Monell claim, let's resolve

that right now. There is absolutely a Monell claim. If we're arguing that the policy either was followed improperly, followed a policy that didn't exist or followed a policy that was in violation of law, the status of Mr. Woody may, in fact, be what the jury decides was the deciding factor, but I believe, as Your Honor has ruled, he survived directed verdict because of his actions at that time, which the jury could find was based on failed policy. Thank you.

MR. SANSONE: The Court ruled there is no Monell claim, Judge. I don't know how else to answer it other than the fact that that was the basis of the Court's ruling that you read 15 minutes ago.

THE COURT: All right. The Court will consider your application.

Do you have any other issue with the verdict sheet?

MR. SANSONE: No, Your Honor other than to point out that there can't be an award of punitive damages against a municipality.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. So we'll take back those versions from you. We'll revisit the issue of the verdict sheet tomorrow.

(Court clerk hands back to Judge

1	15 - Proceedings
2	Daly-Sapraicone.)
3	THE COURT: The Court had some charges that were
4	requested. It seems that there were the wrong numbers
5	used. I just want to confirm that all from the PJI, 1:39,
6	are you withdrawing that request?
7	MR. BIANCO: Yes.
8	THE COURT: 1:40, are you withdrawing that
9	request?
10	MR. BIANCO: Yes.
11	THE COURT: 1:41, withdrawing that request?
12	MR. BIANCO: Yes.
13	THE COURT: 1:36, withdrawing that request?
14	MR. BIANCO: I believe that that was a
15	other-cited section, so in the present form, yes.
16	THE COURT: Okay. 1:91, withdrawing that
17	request?
18	MR. BIANCO: Yes.
19	THE COURT: Okay. Central Jury Instruction 2:2,
20	withdrawing that request?
21	MR. BIANCO: What is the caption of that one?
22	THE COURT: I just have 2:2. I don't have the
23	name in front of me.
24	MR. BIANCO: Sure. Give me one second.
25	I'm sorry. What section was that?

1	16 - Proceedings
2	THE COURT: 2:2.
3	MR. BIANCO: 2:2, yes, withdraw.
4	THE COURT: You entitled it on your request,
5	Stipulations of Fact.
6	MR. BIANCO: What number, Judge?
7	THE COURT: Number 24 in your request.
8	MR. BIANCO: PJI 1:75?
9	THE COURT: No. I'm talking about Federal Jury
10	Instruction 2.2 you asked for. You entitled Stipulation
11	of Facts. It's number 24 in your request.
12	MR. BIANCO: Right. That would be to enter into
13	the 42 CFR HIPAA section.
14	THE COURT: Counsel, do you want to be heard on
15	that?
16	MR. SANSONE: Which one, Judge?
17	THE COURT: Federal Jury Instruction 2.2,
18	Stipulation of Facts, counsel is asking that the HIPAA
19	laws be read into the Court's charge to the jury.
20	MR. SANSONE: I would object to it, Your Honor.
21	It's not related to the case. There is no Monell claim.
22	Counsel's theory about HIPAA, accordingly, is not in the
23	case.
24	THE COURT: Okay. Court is denying that
25	application. You have your exception as to any ruling not

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1	- Proceedings
2	in your favor.
3	Okay. Federal Jury Instruction 5.5, and that
4	was for punitive damages.
5	Mr. Sansone, do you want to be heard on that
6	application for that charge?
7	MR. SANSONE: It's a request for a charge on
8	punitive damages, Your Honor?
9	THE COURT: Yes. Counsel has it as Federal Jury
10	Instruction 5.5, punitive damages.
11	MR. SANSONE: Do you have a copy of it, Your
12	Honor?
13	THE COURT: Counsel, do you have a copy?
14	MR. BIANCO: I can loan him mine. It's going to
15	be starting here (indicating).
16	THE COURT: Is this exactly out of the
17	instruction, counsel?
18	MR. BIANCO: Yes, it has to be tailored toward
19	state court. Mr. Sansone's argument that there are no
20	punitive damages left in this case, I guess we
21	THE COURT: No, he said as to the entity.
22	MR. BIANCO: Correct.
23	THE COURT: It wasn't argued as to the
24	individuals. It was argued as to the entity.
25	Correct, Mr. Sansone?

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MR. SANSONE: Yes, Your Honor. It can only go against an individual.

THE COURT: Right. That was your argument. just wanted to clarify for the record.

My question to you, Mr. Bianco, is the language as written, is that from the Federal Jury Instruction or was it changed in any way, shape or form?

MR. BIANCO: I'll take another look. I just don't have my copy in my hand this second.

MR. SANSONE: If it tracts the Federal Jury Instruction, I have no objection.

MR. BIANCO: I'll let you know in a second.

MR. SANSONE: I would state on the record, Your Honor, that based upon the evidence and testimony in the case, I don't believe there is a basis for an award of punitive damages. This was, at best, one act by a doctor who had treated the plaintiff for a number of days. He made a professional medical judgment that, unfortunately, did not have a good result but I don't think that it can serve as a basis for a jury to find that he was malicious or attempting to harm the plaintiff in some fashion. The evidence just isn't there, so I would --

THE COURT: That can be your argument to the jurors, but the Court is going to let that go to the jury

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for their decision. You have your exception.

MR. SANSONE: I just want something on the record to indicate that I don't agree with it being charged to the jury at all.

THE COURT: Absolutely.

Now, counsel, is this the language as taken from the Federal Jury Instruction as it is written --

MR. BIANCO: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: -- without --

MR. BIANCO: Without redaction, omission or

THE COURT: Okay. The Court will allow it. Counsel approach.

(Whereupon, a bench conference takes place.)

THE COURT: We're going to take five minutes.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

THE COURT: The Court had discussions off the record with counsel, and as it relates to the Court's decision regarding the plaintiff's second cause of action, the Court is considering arguments that may result in the Court reversing a portion of the Court's decision as it relates to that.

Off the record.

- Proceedings

(Whereupon, an off the record discussion was held.)

THE COURT: Counsel, we know that there's outstanding issues as it relates to the verdict sheet and applications made concerning who should remain in the case.

PJI 1:90, General Instruction, Expert Witness.

So we're going to have Dr. Anderson?

MR. BIANCO: Yes.

THE COURT: Dr. Anderson testified concerning his qualifications in the field of psychology and forensic psychiatry and gave his opinions concerning issues in this case.

PJI 1:92, General Instruction Interested Witness Employee of Party.

MR. BIANCO: Inasmuch as that they're all county employees --

THE COURT: Is there any people that you want named in this?

Off the record.

(Whereupon, an off the record discussion was held.)

THE COURT: So off the record we've listed employees and we're going to include those employees.

MR. SANSONE: Your Honor, why would we be relating interested witnesses who are people who are not, in the first instance, not defendants in the case, some of whom are no longer employed by the hospital. And to the extent that the Court has dismissed all claims against every medical defendant other than Huremovic, how can you argue that they're interested witnesses? They don't have a stake in the case.

THE COURT: Well, what the charge says is the fact that the witness was or still is employed by the defendant, and the testimony you have heard of his or her relationship with his or her employer may be considered by you in deciding whether the testimony of the witness was in any way influenced by the employment relationship with the defendant.

MR. SANSONE: Right. But there are two issues, Judge. If NUMC is not in, there is no issue about an employer, number one. Number two, I guess we would have to go through the list because some of these people are not employed, right?

THE COURT: Right. But they were employed at the time, so the charge can be -- Oh, you're saying because they're not employed anymore.

MR. SANSONE: Right. They're no longer

employed.

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THE COURT: Off the record.

(Whereupon, an off the record discussion was held.)

THE COURT: As it relates to a request for charge PJI 2:36, Comparative Fault, in that charge it talks about negligence.

Mr. Sansone, your position on that charge? MR. SANSONE: I'd object to that, Judge. There's no comparative fault here.

THE COURT: Mr. Bianco, do you want to be heard any further on that request for that charge?

MR. BIANCO: We're talking about --

THE COURT: PJI 2:36, Comparative Fault.

MR. BIANCO: Apportionment of fault between defendants. Assuming that we're left with more than one entity, I would ask that you keep it in. If there is only one entity that is left, I'll take my exception but that wouldn't apply.

THE COURT: This Court reads the charge as follows, in pertinent part: If you find that the defendant was negligent and that the defendant's negligence was a substantial factor in bringing about the incident, you must consider whether the plaintiff was also

negligent and whether the plaintiff's negligence was a substantial factor in bringing about the incident.

Based on the fact that there's not a negligence action remaining in this case and based on the testimony and evidence that's been elicited, the Court does not find that to be an appropriate charge.

MR. BIANCO: If I may?

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. BIANCO: I believe it was argued that
Mr. Woody somehow brought about his own demise, given
false -- possibly, different self diagnosis, so I would
say that that should absolutely be in. Blame it on
Mr. Woody. Give them an opportunity.

THE COURT: Do you want to be heard on that?

MR. SANSONE: It's not a negligence case, Judge.

It would be good for an automobile collision. It doesn't fit in this case. Nobody is arguing that Mr. Woody --

THE COURT: As the case is not a negligence case, the Court is not going to give that charge to the jurors. You have your exception.

There was also a request to charge which was PJI 2:71, Proximate Cause, Concurrent Causes. Reads as follows: There may be more than one cause of an incident where the independent and negligent acts or omissions of

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two or more parties caused the incident to another. Each of those negligent acts or omissions is regarded as a cause of that incident provided that it was a substantial factor in bringing about that incident.

Does any counsel want to be heard on this?

MR. SANSONE: Not applicable, Your Honor.

We're not dealing with a negligence standard, and who would be the other actor? The county is out of the case.

MR. BIANCO: Again, because the county is out of the case, I'll take my exception, but it has no applicability with a single defendant.

THE COURT: Okay. As this charge relates to negligence and there's not a negligence claim remaining in the case, Court will not give that charge.

You have your exception.

PJI 2:72, Proximate Cause, Intervening Causes, reads as follows: The defendant claims that he is not responsible for the plaintiff's injuries because the injuries were caused by a third-party. If you find that defendant was negligent but that the plaintiff's injuries were caused by the act of a third party, you may still find that defendant is responsible for the plaintiff's injuries. If you also find that a reasonably prudent

person in the defendant's situation before the defendant allegedly committed his or her act of negligence would have foreseen that an act of the kind committed by the third-party would be a probable result of the defendant's negligence. If you find that a reasonably prudent person would not have foreseen an act of the kind committed by the third-party as a probable consequence of the defendant's negligence, then the defendant is not responsible for the plaintiff's injuries and the plaintiff may not recover.

Mr. Sansone, do you want to be heard?

MR. SANSONE: Not applicable, Your Honor.

Again, negligence standard, and what would be the intervening act or cause?

THE COURT: Mr. Bianco, do you want to be heard?

MR. BIANCO: At this point, the county would have to be considered a third-party in so much as they are not defendants in this case, and only at that point would a, at this point, discontinued defendant now be dragged in through that particular jury charge without any opportunity for recovery by the plaintiff. So I'll take my exception because I believe it is applicable for all defendants but it has no applicability if the only remaining defendant is the medical defendant.

- Proceedings

THE COURT: Okay. As the charge talks about negligence and there is no negligence claim remaining in the case, the Court will not give that charge.

You have your exception.

PJI 2:280 Damages, Personal Injury, Injury and Pain and Suffering: If you decide that defendant is liable, plaintiff's estate is entitled to recover a sum of money which will justly and fairly compensate it for any injury and conscious pain and suffering caused by defendant. Conscious pain and suffering means pain and suffering in which there was some level of awareness by decedent.

Counsel, do you want to be heard?

MR. BIANCO: Again, pain and suffering elements do not have to be proved with an expert. The pain and suffering that Mr. Woody underwent was both the capsaicin incident which, at this point, with the remaining defendants, would have to be based on a failure to properly diagnose and, unfortunately, communicate to a now dismissed defendant. In addition, the awareness of wanting to kill yourself and then finally accomplishing the goal, crying out for medication, claiming that he wasn't receiving his medication, bugs crawling on his skin, the constant cry-out is, in fact, the manifestation

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of that suffering. No expert necessary. I believe it's an applicable jury charge.

MR. SANSONE: I would object to the charge,
Judge. There's no evidence of conscious pain and
suffering in this case.

First of all, the OC spray; one, has nothing to do with my clients. The county is out, and there was plenty of testimony in this case that it was done to restrain Mr. Woody from hurting himself at the time when he was having a suicidal attempt.

With respect to conscious pain and suffering, the only testimony in this case came from the corrections officers who said that he was pulseless and not breathing at the time they got to him when they found him hanging. The rest of it would just be pure speculation in terms of a jury, so I don't think it's in this case and I would object to the charge.

THE COURT: Court will not allow the charge to go to the jury.

You have your exception.

Court has before it PJI 1:60, General Instruction, Burden of Proof, When Burden Differs on Different Issues.

Mr. Bianco.

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- Proceedings

2	MR. BIANCO: I don't perceive any burden shift
3	here, Judge. If I'm reading the correct section that I
4	have, I don't believe there was any burden shift here.
5	THE COURT: You're not asking for that charge
6	anymore.
7	MR. BIANCO: No, I don't think so.
8	MR. SANSONE: I don't think it's applicable,
9	Your Honor.
10	THE COURT: Okay. So neither side is asking for
11	that charge. That's fine. Okay.
12	2:151, which is another negligence charge.
13	Mr. Bianco.
14	MR. BIANCO: The argument that I made on that
15	was the word "malpractice" in place of "negligence."
16	Again, with the theory that a civil rights action cannot
17	exist in isolation. It has to be attached to some other
18	action. In this case, I would like that particular jury
19	charge; however, wherever we see the word "negligence,"
20	replace the word "malpractice."
21	MR. SANSONE: I would object to the charge, Your
22	Honor. As I've argued previously, and as the case law
23	demonstrates, malpractice is not a basis for a rights

violation.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BIANCO: Again, I'm sorry. Not to belabor the point, but the malpractice, again, would be the lack of communication knowing that instructions will not, cannot be carried out underneath the current policy. So, again, it wasn't a malpractice that I would want to mislead the jury that this was a malpractice action. It's simply the vehicle for the civil rights violation. Thank you.

THE COURT: As there is no malpractice claim or negligence claim remaining in the case, the Court will not give that charge.

You have your exception.

Okay. 2:235, that's entitled Liability for the Conduct of Another Employer, Employee, Scope of Employee.

MR. BIANCO: Again, Monell, municipal liability, without two different state actors acting in tandem, it would be something that you first have to make a determination about whether the medical defendant would be in or out of this case, and then only at that point, could I make any rational argument on 2:235. It's, essentially, the municipal liability underneath Monell saying that an employee/employer relationship in some way must exist even though it's not respondent superior.

MR. SANSONE: Again, Your Honor, the charge is

inapplicable. This isn't employer being responsible for an employee. In the context of a civil rights case, an individual can violate somebody's rights but it doesn't make his employer liable. You have to be responsible for your actions. And that goes hand in hand with the idea that the only basis for claims against the municipality is not the actions of their employee. It is an unconstitutional policy, which we've gone over before, so the charge is inapplicable in the context of what we're discussing.

MR. BIANCO: Again, he'd have to be acting underneath a policy that if the medical center is out, I would agree that it has no applicability. One decision has to be made before I could further argue this particular jury charge.

THE COURT: I'm going to hold that in abeyance and I will hear you further tomorrow on that PJI request.

We have PJI 2:284.

MR. BIANCO: Again, that's a personal injury, emotional distress. The basis of the pain and suffering is the common knowledge of someone who cries out, common knowledge that pepper spray hurts, common knowledge that someone calling out for medical assistance when there is the argument to the jury that medical assistance was

either not supplied by his, again, jailers, I believe that that is a care and custody issue and the emotional distress can be argued to the jury through common experience.

THE COURT: Counsel, do you want to be heard?

MR. SANSONE: Again, Judge, one; it's not a

negligence case. Two, clearly, Mr. Woody as an individual

who attempted and eventually was successful in suicide,

appeared to have emotional distress. That is not

something that was necessarily caused by the defendant.

If the doctor violated his rights, he didn't create

emotional distress on behalf of Mr. Woody. I would argue

that it's a totally inappropriate charge for a non-jury

case under 1983.

MR. BIANCO: And, again, if the only defendant left is Dr. Hurmervic and no medical defendant, this would have no applicability, I would agree, because Dr. Hurmervic would have to be operating, essentially, in a vacuum. The argument was he was illegally implementing a policy that shouldn't have exist so, again, I think it's a little premature to rule on this.

THE COURT: Court is going to reserve decision on that.

Okay. Then I have left 42 USC 1983.

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MR. BIANCO: The section cited, I believe, is the section taken right out of the --

THE COURT: Without changes?

MR. BIANCO: It appears so, Your Honor. insomuch as it's contained in the same document as the other. At this point, I can give you a high confidence but let me confirm that just to make sure.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BIANCO: I believe that I recall this section that it does have gender references so it might be something -- Yeah, it does have gender references. I can almost guarantee you that we corrected the gender reference.

THE COURT: But other than that, the language --MR. BIANCO: I want to be sure. But yes, I am confident but not 100 percent sure. I'll double check.

THE COURT: Mr. Sansone.

MR. SANSONE: I submitted to the Court what I believe was proper instruction under Section 1983 for deliberate indifference such as we have here, tracking the language that was used in the Darnell case.

THE COURT: Do you have a copy of that, Mr. Bianco.

MR. BIANCO: I did see it. I'm trying to locate

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it. If Mr. Sansone has an extra copy, I'm familiar with it.

MR. SANSONE: I can't even find my copy. I'm sorry.

THE COURT: We'll give you a copy.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you.

THE COURT: We're going to take a few minutes to let counsel review the version presented by Mr. Sansone and the version presented by Mr. Bianco, so counsel can review that together.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

THE COURT: Counsel are present.

Mr. Sansone had suggested a version of PJI 3:60 which he shared with Mr. Bianco. It's the Court's understanding that there's a consent to use the charge as offered.

MR. BIANCO: Yes.

THE COURT: And that we're not going to be reading, per se, a 42 Section 1983 charge that was offered by Mr. Bianco but, instead, we'll use the PJI 3:60.

MR. BIANCO: Yes.

THE COURT: Mr. Sansone?

MR. SANSONE: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. And by yes, you both agree to

that.

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MR. BIANCO: Yes.

MR. SANSONE: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BIANCO: That's an agreement.

THE COURT: And then we're going to look at PJI 2:278, which is damages, punitive to use that charge instead of the Federal jury charge 5.5. We're going to give counsel copies momentarily of that.

Okay. As it relates to -- And we are waiting for the court officer to come back. The Court will give --

(Mr. Bianco's staff begins to enter the courtroom.)

THE COURT: You have to wait outside until we get the court officer.

MR. BIANCO: Two seconds.

(Court officer returns to courtroom.)

THE COURT: You can come back in and you can bring everyone else back in.

As it relates to the Court's instructions to the jurors, the Court will instruct the jurors that the testimony of Mr. Horn has been stricken.

Does anybody want to be heard on that?

1	35
1	- Proceedings
2	MR. BIANCO: I made arguments before. Just note
3	my objection.
4	MR. SANSONE: No, Your Honor.
5	THE COURT: All right. The Court is just going
6	to indicate to the jury that the testimony of Mr. Horn has
7	been stricken and that they should disregard it.
8	Just to review the consented charges, the Court
9	will give that instruction, PJI 1:20.
10	That's consented to, correct?
11	MR. BIANCO: Yes.
12	THE COURT: I know we reviewed this but I want
13	to make sure that we have a final record of it. That's
14	instruction, correct
15	MR. BIANCO: Yes.
16	THE COURT: Introduction. I'm sorry.
17	Okay. 1:21 is Review Principles Stated.
18	Consent?
19	MR. BIANCO: Yes.
20	THE COURT: Mr. Sansone?
21	MR. SANSONE: Yes, Your Honor.
22	THE COURT: Okay. 1:22, Falsus in Uno.
23	Consent?
24	MR. BIANCO: Yes.
25	MR. SANSONE: Yes.

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THE COURT: Okay. 1:23, which is Burden of Proof. Consent? MR. BIANCO: Consent. MR. SANSONE: Consent. THE COURT: Counsel 1:25, Consider Only Testimony and Exhibits. Consent? MR. BIANCO: Consent. MR. SANSONE: Consent. THE COURT: 1:25A Jurors Use of Professional Expertise. Consent? MR. BIANCO: Consent. MR. SANSONE: Consent. THE COURT: 1:25C, which is PJI General Instruction, Interested Witness, Generally. The Court heard from many defendants that testified. Is counsel requesting that the Court read the instruction as it relates to the remaining doctor or is counsel asking for anybody else to be included in that charge? MR. BIANCO: Well, it's the culmination of all of the testimony, and with the exception of Dr. Anderson, 23 there were no non-adverse witnesses, for lack of a better 24

way to put it, so keeping that intact would give the jury

the indication that these were all somewhat adverse witnesses.

THE COURT: So do you want the Court to read that the defendants -- and read all their names -- have testified before you as parties to the action. Each of those individuals is an interested witness; that is, he or she has an interest in the outcome of the case that may have affected his or her testimony.

MR. BIANCO: I don't know that it's necessary to list everyone's names.

THE COURT: I'm asking you. It's your charge. It's the Court --

MR. BIANCO: I'm not asking you to list the names, but all of the witnesses with the exception of Dr. Anderson were employed by defendants or were actual defendants, would be sufficient.

MR. SANSONE: Your Honor, I go back to the same interested witnesses. On that level, every witness that testified --

THE COURT: Well, some witnesses that testified would be getting a different charge because they weren't defendants, right?

MR. SANSONE: Right.

THE COURT: Typically, it's given when a

plaintiff or a defendant testifies. By virtue of them being named a party, they have an interest in the outcome of the case. There's a separate charge for another individual that may have testified such as the employee that we talked about before.

MR. SANSONE: Right. But all of these people have been dismissed from the case, Judge.

THE COURT: Correct. But that doesn't negate the fact that at the time of their testimony, they were parties to the case, so that's why I am asking counsel --

MR. SANSONE: Right.

THE COURT: -- both of you, how do you want that charge to read.

MR. BIANCO: I would like the charge to be read intact.

THE COURT: So do you want the Court to read each of the defendant's names?

MR. BIANCO: With the exception of I do not need every defendant's name read. We can simply say the named defendants.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. BIANCO: The named defendants --

THE COURT: Meaning?

MR. BIANCO: The named defendants and all the

1	39 - Proceedings	
2	witnesses that were employed by the Sheriff's Department	
3	or Nassau University.	
4	THE COURT: It has to be defendants.	
5	MR. BIANCO: Yeah or employees of defendants.	
6	THE COURT: If they're employees. There's a	
7	different charge if they're not defendants. This is only	
8	parties.	
9	MR. BIANCO: Right. Instead of naming each one,	
10	the named defendants would suffice for plaintiff's	
11	purposes.	
12	THE COURT: Say that again. That wasn't clear.	
13	MR. BIANCO: Sure. Simply saying the named	
14	defendants would suffice for plaintiff's purposes as far	
15	as that jury charge.	
16	MR. SANSONE: That's fine, Your Honor.	
17	THE COURT: Okay. Then we have PJI 1:27,	
18	Exclude Sympathy. Consent?	
19	MR. BIANCO: Consent.	
20	MR. SANSONE: Consent.	
21	THE COURT: 1:27A, which is a Fair Juror Absence	
22	of Implicit or Conscious Bias.	
23	MR. BIANCO: Consent.	
24	MR. SANSONE: Consent.	

THE COURT: PJI 1:26, General Instruction

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2	Special Verdict, General Verdict Supported by Written	
3	Interrogatories. Consent?	
4	MR. SANSONE: Consent.	
5	MR. BIANCO: Which number is that, Judge?	
6	THE COURT: 1:26.	
7	MR. BIANCO: Yes, consent.	
8	THE COURT: And now the Court will indicate that	
9	each question calls for some answer which may be yes or no	
10	and some numerical figure.	
11	Consent to that?	
12	MR. BIANCO: Yes, consent.	
13	MR. SANSONE: Yes.	
14	THE COURT: PJI 1:26A, 56, Verdict, General	
15	Verdict.	
16	MR. BIANCO: Consent.	
17	MR. SANSONE: Consent.	
18	THE COURT: PJI 1:28, Jury Function.	
19	Consent?	
20	MR. SANSONE: Consent.	
21	MR. BIANCO: Consent.	
22	THE COURT: PJI 1:70, General Instruction Direct	
23	and Circumstantial Evidence.	
24	MR. BIANCO: Consent.	
25	MR. SANSONE: Yes.	

1	- Proceedings	
2	THE COURT: We spoke about 1:90, Expert Witness.	
3	That will include Dr. Anderson.	
4	MR. BIANCO: Consent.	
5	THE COURT: We talked about PJI 1:92, which will	
6	include the names of three witnesses that were not	
7	defendants.	
8	MR. BIANCO: Yes.	
9	THE COURT: Consent?	
10	MR. BIANCO: That's fine.	
11	MR. SANSONE: Yes, Your Honor.	
12	THE COURT: And PJI 2:70, Proximate Cause in	
13	General. Consent to that, correct?	
14	MR. BIANCO: Consent.	
15	MR. SANSONE: Yes.	
16	THE COURT: Then we have PJI 2:277.	
17	So that reads as follows. I'm going to read it	
18	as it is and then we're going to see if counsel wants to	
19	change it.	
20	My charge to you on the law of damages must not	
21	be taken as a suggestion that you should find for the	
22	plaintiff. It is for you to decide on the evidence	
23	presented and the rules of law I have given you whether	
24	the plaintiff is entitled to recover from the defendant.	
25	If you find that the plaintiff is not entitled to recover	

from the defendant, you need not consider damages. Only if you decide that the plaintiff is entitled to recover will you consider the measure of damages. If you find that plaintiff is entitled to recover from the defendant, you must render a verdict in the sum of money that will justly and fairly compensate the plaintiff for -- Now the charge reads -- all losses resulting from the incident he sustained? Is that the language that you want?

We can go off the record to discuss it.

MR. BIANCO: No, we could stay on the record. We do not have an alternate -- Yes, of the "incident he sustained" was the closest we can come to ambiguity necessary in that particular jury charge.

MR. SANSONE: Could I just have the last phrase that you read, Judge.

THE COURT: Do you want a copy of it? No?

Okay. I'll read you the last sentence as it is

contained in the charge. I changed the word "injuries" to

"incident" because we used the word "incident" in other

charges, so to be consistent.

If you find that the plaintiff is entitled to recover from the defendant, you must render a verdict in a sum of money that will justly and fairly compensate the plaintiff for all losses resulting from the incident he

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sustained.

The charge has, "all losses resulting from the injuries and disabilities he sustained," but we're using "incident" instead of "injuries." So that's why the Court had all losses resulting from the incident he sustained.

MR. SANSONE: That's fine, Your Honor.

MR. BIANCO: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. PJI 2:277A.

Consent?

MR. SANSONE: Consent.

THE COURT: Which is Damages, Comment by Counsel During Closing Remarks.

MR. BIANCO: Consent.

MR. SANSONE: Consent.

THE COURT: Then we have, I believe we've given you a copy of PJI 2:278, Damages Punitive, so if you just take a moment to look at that copy.

It was the Court's suggestion that we use the PJI version as opposed to the Federal Jury Instruction.

MR. BIANCO: Yes, that's the edit, essentially, for the conscious pain and suffering only, right?

THE COURT: No. This is PJI 2:78, Damages punitive.

Do you have a copy of it, counsel? I believe we

gave it to you.

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MR. BIANCO: Yeah. Hang on a second.

THE COURT: If you just take a few moments. We'll take five minutes for you to both look at it because there's some verbiage that we need to adjust in that charge.

MR. BIANCO: Your Honor, may I?

PJI 2:278, what would be the manipulation of this?

THE COURT: That's what we have to talk about.

MR. BIANCO: Oh, okay.

THE COURT: So we'd use this charge instead of the Federal Jury Instruction 5.5 because it's from the PJI, but we can go off the record and have discussions or you and Mr. Sansone can have some discussion and we can memorialize that on the record.

I'm just going to finish the remaining charges before we go to that, okay, as the Court and counsel can confirm if there's any other charges.

The Court has remaining PJI 3:60, which is Constitutional Torts, 42 USC Section 1983, and we're going to use the version that's been offered by Mr. Sansone. believe there's consent.

MR. BIANCO: Consent.

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MR. SANSONE: Consent.

THE COURT: Okay. And then that would negate the need for the Court to give a separate 42 USC Section 1983 charge, correct?

MR. BIANCO: Yes, Judge.

MR. SANSONE: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And then we would have PJI 1:24, which is Return to Courtroom. 1:30, which is Conclusion and then, if necessary, 1:31 which is Alternate Additional Jurors.

MR. BIANCO: Consent.

THE COURT: Is anyone requesting any other charges at this time?

MR. BIANCO: Nothing further.

MR. SANSONE: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. So let's take a few minutes and you can both look at that PJI 2:278.

(Brief recess is taken.)

THE COURT: Counsel, do you want to be heard?

MR. BIANCO: Yes. I made not too many adjustments to the pattern jury instruction PJI 2.278, Damages Punitive. Four lines down -- sorry -- five lines down.

THE COURT: In addition to awarding damages to

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compensate the plaintiff for his injuries or for his incident, let's call it "incident" so we're consistent. You may but are not to required to award plaintiff 5 punitive damages if you find that the acts of the defendant -- and we'll decide what we're putting in 6 7 there -- that caused the incident complained of. MR. BIANCO: -- were wanton and reckless. 8

Not using the word "malicious."

THE COURT: Do you want to be heard?

MR. SANSONE: I think "malicious" is supposed to be in there.

THE COURT: It says, Use applicable phrase or term.

MR. SANSONE: I would suggest "wanton" and "malicious."

MR. BIANCO: Reckless is also a standard that we can use in this. I'm asking for wanton. If you want to use wanton, reckless or malicious because the wanton and malicious are the joinders in this particular --

THE COURT: They're joined. So wanton, reckless or malicious?

MR. BIANCO: Yes.

MR. SANSONE: I would, again, suggest wanton and/or malicious because recklessness is a standard just

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for the violation of 1983 and I believe punitive damages has to be something beyond that.

MR. BIANCO: Which, again, if you're reading it in its entirety, would get that across. It's not trying to sneak in the word reckless. They're going to understand the legal standard. It's simply for the punitive damages --

THE COURT: I'm going to, as plaintiff requested, wanton and reckless or malicious.

You have your exception.

MR. BIANCO: Thank you.

THE COURT: Punitive damages may be awarded for conduct that represents a high degree of immorality.

MR. BIANCO: I was taking out --

THE COURT: -- and shows?

MR. BIANCO: Right. I was taking out "immorality," a high degree of immorality. That represents a, beginning with "wanton" -- I'm sorry. took that entire thing out. From punitive damages may be awarded for conduct that represents a high degree of immorality and shows such wanton dishonesty as to apply a criminal indifference to civil obligations.

I wanted to just leave in --

THE COURT: For the purpose?

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MR. BIANCO: Yeah. It was the indifference to civil obligations, but to imply a criminal, that was not the intention of this. It wasn't an assault. This has been used, more or less, with assaults. It's not that. So what I wanted to do is keep in the indifference to civil obligations. So punitive damages may be awarded for conduct that represents a high degree of indifference to civil obligations.

MR. SANSONE: I disagree.

The whole purpose of a jury to consider an award of punitive damages is something beyond just recklessness.

MR. BIANCO: Okay.

THE COURT: I mean, we can just leave it in.

Punitive damages may be awarded for conduct that

represents a high degree of immorality and not add in

any -- because it says Add where applicable, and not add

those in.

MR. BIANCO: I would ask if we're going to keep that immorality in, just keep the whole thing. Yeah, that would be my application. Add where it's applicable. At that point, it would be applicable. So I would ask for the entire thing to be read in. The only exception I would, at that point, take is the same correction we made to wanton, reckless or malicious, to simply make that same

22 THE COURT: Correct.

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MR. BIANCO: Thank you.

THE COURT: Does anybody need to be heard any further?