During the summer of 2021 I experienced increasing glare in my vision and driving had become more difficult. While driving at night the glare from lights became extreme with difficulty entering left turn lanes. I could not see a left curb well and it was hard to tell where I was in the lanes, as well as the lane I was turning into on the perpendicular roads. I had been outside a lot from the spring working on home and yard projects up until July. Once the humidity increases along with allergens, grain dust, and especially wildfires, I have to stay inside much of the time and use air conditioning. Upon turning 18 years of age I was badly stricken with mononucleosis and never fully recovered, later developing problematic allergies and chemical sensitivities, which are far worse today.

Since late in 1997 I was permanently disabled and have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which carries things like sore throats and neck glands at times for no known reason, and muscular weakness with fibromyalgia pain. I had sinus surgery in April of 1997 to alleviate congestion and it did help significantly. Allergies became worse, especially sensitivities to scented chemicals and in 2001 I was diagnosed with Asthma. Today chemical sensitivities are severe so in my home I only use Ivory soap and shampoo without any scent, as well as ordinary deodorant. Avoiding things like that or anything else that causes problems seems the best of solutions. I also prefer to be extremely careful of any medications or injections due to adverse reactions. When diagnosed with Asthma I received a pneumonia shot and was suggested to always get a flu shot, which I did through 2004 until adverse reactions became severe as well. This is a condition many see as some type of fake disease, as when I feel well and am active I do not appear ill. I've also told many I may tend to think the same thing if I did not have it and experience the symptoms. Over the years I've learned to take good care of myself, not only avoiding things that are bothersome, but also managing rest, activity, and weight.

I've given up on shaving with a razor and clipping or cutting my hair short, as I also have Pseudofolliculitis Barbae with baby soft wavy hair. When I try to trim up neatly and shave with a razor, I pay dearly with a sore head and horrible episodes of breaking out from shaving, leading to infections with swollen neck glands. In 2008 I was severely swollen to a point of it affecting my ability to breath. This condition has worsened in sensitivity and I finally decided to leave my hair alone and only clip my beard, never closely shaving. I have less difficulties this way and intend to continue in caring for myself in any manner that works well that does not cause difficulty or infections.

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I drove to Fargo, ND, and bought an 8 week old Shih Tzu puppy. The drive was tolerable but glare had increased. I had to be inside so it was a good time for raising a puppy while I changed my hot water heater and had a new furnace installed, leaving other outside projects for fall. I also made fall appointments with my dentist and to get an eye exam for new glasses. My lenses were nearly two years old and frames older yet, which had a break in the right stem causing wobble. I planned on things like anti glare and whatever would help with night glare. My glasses seemed cloudy on the right and one week before my eye appointment, I opened and closed each eye with and without my glasses. My right eye had no vision whatsoever but for light, blur, and glare.

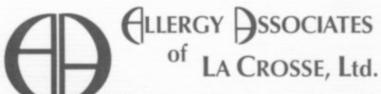
Two years prior was my last eye exam with Dr. Destin R. Coles, O.D., at Opticare in East Grand Forks, MN, where I'd been a patient for nearly two decades. Dr. Coles said my right eye developed a cataract and would probably need surgery in the future, and it was likely affecting my vision at the time. When I discovered the condition of my right eye I immediately assumed it was from the cataract he informed me about. With my eye exam already scheduled and one week away, I told him my condition was just learned about one week ago after my appointment was scheduled.

Opticare and other providers such as my Dentist are already aware of my condition and due to the fact I cannot wear a mask, I've never worn one anywhere. I've not left home without two letters regarding my condition per advice of a disability Attorney, in that being transparent should be sufficient. The letters are from the Mayo Clinic and Allergy Associates in La Crosse, WI. With retail stores I presented these letters at the door along with mandate exemptions, and also displayed my Medicare card showing that I was in fact disabled. Only two retailers in Grand Forks were abusive while most others were very accommodating, so I no longer use those two particular stores. I've not heard once of any retailer or medical provider demand a person in a wheel chair walk while in the store or facility to be allowed entry, as that would be rather abusive.

Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I went to my appointment with Dr. Coles at Opticare and was not treated at all like I was when I needed my broken glasses repaired late in 2020, as the right stem broke off. They were fixed and I was treated well as usual, and while the stem held it started to wobble over the months from side to side. I planned on new glasses soon anyway so that was fine. When I showed up there I had my two letters with me about my breathing condition in case a reminder was needed and all was well, as I was not harassed about wearing a mask in anyway whatsoever. The staff was rather gracious and helpful, but at this September 7<sup>th</sup> appointment they were seemingly indifferent toward me and I had no idea why.

Once again I had the same two letters which were also becoming weathered, but upon me presenting them as I did the last year, a woman more or less shoved a mask at me and told me I needed to wear one. I again had to explain my condition and presented the letters, but she did not seem to like this. While in the waiting area when staff walked by or came out for any other patient, I would receive what appeared to be and felt to be looks of scorn and displeasure. It felt as though my appearance of me merely waiting for my appointment with Dr. Coles was in some way, inappropriate. I had no such trouble at my dental appointments and did not even need the letters with me, as that office, like Opticare, was already aware of my condition. This was extremely uncomfortable and was very inconsistent in the way I was treated when having my glasses repaired.

While one might experience this from an abusive retailer with reckless disregard for the Americans with Disabilities Act, the ADA, it is not what anyone should experience with a medical provider, especially when your health condition is known to them. The next two pages are the letters I've presented anywhere necessary to be allowed entry.



Offering comprehensive diagnostic and treatment options for the allergic patient...

May 17, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Douglas West 819 Lewis Blvd #4 Grand Forks, ND 58203

This is to state that Mr. Douglas West has consulted us for allergy evaluation. He has chronic nasal congestion, facial and eye pain, headaches, throat tightening spells, and choking attacks. Intradermal testing showed positive to several airborne inhalants such as dust, mite, pollen, mold spores, and dog dander. He also reacts to a variety of chemicals such as perfumes, scents, air fresheners, and disinfectants (Lysol and Pinesol etc). We have placed him on our immunotherapy program, but we also recommend that he have housing conditions that are free of dust, mold spores, volatile chemicals, and pollens. This will improve his medical condition.

Sincerely

Vijay K. Sabnis, MD

VKS:rlc



Mayo Clinic 200 First Street SW Rochester, Minnesota 55905 507-284-2511

Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

RE: Mr. Douglas J

DOB:

MC#:

August 27, 2001

Mr. Douglas J. West Apartment 41 615 First Avenue South Grand Forks, ND 58201-4582

Dear Mr. West:

It was a pleasure to have participated in your recent evaluation in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

Our final diagnoses were:

· Asthma

· Pulmonary nodule

· Marginally abnormal stress test performed elsewhere

m

Attached is the clinical documentation which summarizes our impressions and recommendations (William Sanchez, M.D.: Aug-24-2001, Aug-23-2001; Udaya B. Prakash, M.D.: Aug-23-2001). I have also included the most recent laboratory results and pulmonary function test reports.

Once again, it was a pleasure to participate in your care. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the enclosed report.

Sincerely,

William Sanchez, M.D.

WS:kkt Enclosures The two letters were written on my behalf for the purpose of housing accommodations so I could show these health factors are of significant difficulty. The letter from Allergy Associates has a previous address than the letter from the Mayo Clinic. This is due to the fact most apartments were difficult for me to live in so I moved more than once.

Keeping a positive attitude regardless, I had some tests and completed my eye exam with Dr. Coles, who unlike much of the staff, was good to me and treated me well. He showed me a screen of my right eye being clouded over entirely and of course said I was going to need surgery. We went to the front desk together and he relayed to staff that I needed scheduling for cataract surgery. Without any discussion regarding options of various facilities, he told his staff to arrange this through the North Dakota Eye Clinic in Grand Forks, ND. The woman at the front desk did this via telephone and did me more harm than good. She set up the time and date while describing my condition.

Rather than saying something polite to the North Dakota Eye Clinic, such as he is a long term patient of ours and is disabled. Please be sure to treat him well as he is way out of balance from complete blindness in his right eye and has specific health problems along with breathing difficulties. He has Asthma and some severe allergies, especially to scented chemicals, so in no way can he wear a mask and he will likely provide you with paperwork regarding this, so please be patient with him. There was nothing relayed in support of my health conditions or me as a disabled individual. Instead, the woman made the arrangements and at the end of the telephone conversation said, "Oh, and he does not wear a mask", as if I can wear a mask and choose not to, which isn't the case.

Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., I went to my first appointment at the North Dakota Eye Clinic with Dr. Mark L. Sczepanski, M.D. Again I walked in and had to present the same two letters for entry into the facility without a mask. As with all other appointments, I did not wear a mask because of my health conditions. After the eye exam I met with Dr. Sczepanski and an assistant. He of course said my right eye was legally blind and I informed him I could no longer drive at night. I said if I do go to a friend's place before dark and leave after dark I need to take the "old man" way home down residential streets, as I cannot take main roads with traffic and headlights.

Dr. Sczepanski asked if Dr. Coles said anything to me about the cataract in my left eye and I informed him Dr. Coles hadn't gone into specifics. Dr. Sczepanski then mentioned there is "this thing" where after surgery you no longer need glasses. I asked him to tell me about it as I was interested and he said it was not covered by insurance. I said that's okay and offered to write him a check. He looked at his assistant and she provided him with a "no nod" reaction, and then Dr. Sczepanski said, "we better not", "we better not", and I asked why and if it were because my left eye shouldn't have its lens replaced without being worse, or like leaving well enough alone. He just said again we better not" and would not provide me with any additional information. Upon leaving he asked what my papers were I was holding and I said it was about my asthma and why I cannot wear a mask. They were worn and staff said that was fine, copied them, and gave them back.

The concept of coming out of such blindness and not needing glasses was rather desirable to me and in one "no nod", that idea or concept was gone. I felt as though with Dr. Sczepanski's assistant giving the nod I was suddenly, in one nod, downgraded to the Medicare mule line and perhaps not a candidate. This was also hard to understand at the time as I was not doing well and needed about as much help in every way I could benefit from. It was also difficult in that I didn't understand why he would bring this up and suddenly say, "we better not" without explanation over a nod from an assistant. The other difficulty was that I offered to pay for it and was willing to do anything necessary.

My glasses were bifocals for nearly 15 years and close to 7 years ago I was prescribed a mid range pair of glasses by Dr. Coles at Opticare for things like sitting at a computer, rather than switching to trifocals. The past few years I was constantly looking at things close up or far away and had no mid range in my glasses. This was my next step as well in glasses until cataracts became an issue. With all the years in bifocals and time for trifocals, the idea of not needing glasses did sound desirable and I was willing to pay for that, and do anything necessary, so it was rather saddening during a tough time.

Dr. Sczepanski's staff then scheduled a physical with Dr. Lommen since my father and I brought my mother to her for years I thought she would be fine. I waited around for some of this to be scheduled and when I found out it would be more than one month out my plans were to finish up some light patching on my patio and porches outside. The summer humidity was absent and that was about all I could do with my vision. It was only silicon types of patching and mesh on the sides of a porch, along with basic patio cracks. Even that was not too easy but I like keeping busy and wanted to do this before it was too cold outside. Other than that I rested often to be prepared for surgery due to my health. Anything involving anesthesia can be difficult and likely to leave me quite ill.

With everything appearing to be scheduled, Dr. Sczepanski's staff provided me with two documents. One thing on the paperwork was follow up the day after surgery at Opticare with Dr. Coles. Dr. Sczepanski previously mentioned this and I thought I would follow up with him and he said no, as Dr. Coles was my O.D. That was fine too but I felt the very next day I could perhaps follow up at the North Dakota Eye Clinic where it may be of slightly better convenience if anything went wrong. Remaining with the same facility if there was a problem with an Intraocular Lens seemed better in case anything were wrong so I would not have to drive to another facility. I went with that as I was willing to do anything necessary to get my vision back, but felt it may be easier at one facility.

There were also eye drops prescribed and I relayed which pharmacy to use, so those were sent to my pharmacy. I was asked if I wanted individual drops which were of 3 different drops, or combined drops where there would be one. The single drops cost a little more but I chose the 3 individual drops. Money or insurance was never an issue so if I saved a little here and spent much more there, that was fine. It seemed individual drops would be more to keep track of and combined drops easier. The next two pages are the papers on scheduling which were in a blue North Dakota Eye Clinic folder.

## NORTH DAKOTA EYE CLINIC, LTD.

DATE OF SURGERY:	10/26/2021	

**ARRIVAL TIME TO SURGERY CENTER:** A nurse from the North Dakota Surgery Center will call you <u>one</u> day prior to your surgery with your arrival time.

### PRE-OPERATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

- MEASUREMENTS: Not applicable
- PHYSICAL: Scheduled for: 10/19/2021 @ 2:15pm with Dr. Lommen

## \*\*\*DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT THE EVENING BEFORE SURGERY. \*\*\*

<u>MEDICATIONS</u>: A nurse will review all medications with you during the pre-operative phone call. Please inform the nurse of all medications including vitamins, herbs and oxygen use. The nurse will tell you which of your medications may be taken before surgery and any that you should hold until after surgery. **Please be prepared to write these down.** 

EYE DROPS: Use as directed.

<u>CLOTHING:</u> You will not need to remove any clothing for surgery, but please wear a <u>short-sleeved shirt</u> and comfortable pants. You <u>should not</u> wear any make-up, jewelry, or bring anything valuable with you. <u>Discontinue eye make-up 4 days prior to surgery.</u>

## PLEASE BRING A CASE FOR YOUR GLASSES AND A PAIR OF SUNGLASSES IF YOU HAVE.

<u>SURGERY:</u> Your surgery will take <u>20-30 minutes</u>. You can plan on being at the North Dakota Surgery Center for approximately <u>1-1 ½ hours</u>. This includes pre-operative preparations, the surgery, and recovery time.

## Avoid dental procedures for at least two weeks following surgery.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Patients are not allowed to drive for 24-hrs following IV anesthesia. Due to this restriction, you will need to arrange for someone to bring you to your surgery and to take you home. It is also recommended that you have someone available to help you for the first 24-hrs following your surgery.

BILLING / INSURANCE: You will receive three bills following your surgery. One from the North Dakota Eye Clinic for the physician fee, one from the North Dakota Surgery Center for the operating room fee and one from the Grand Forks Anesthesia Group for any sedation you received during your surgery. All bills will submitted to your insurance provider on fil. Please call our billing department with any questions or concerns regarding your account.

FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENT	Your doctor wil	l need to see you after yo	ur surgery.	
This has been schedule	ed for:	10/27/2021	@ 8:10am Dr. Cole	es
QUESTIONS: Please call	Jess	at 701-775-3151 or	1-800-333-7344.	



<u>Patient instructions</u>: present this form to your primary care provider at your preoperative appointment on 10/19/2021 @ 2:15pm .

Dear provide	r,	
Our mutual p	atient has presen	ted to your office today in preparation for an upcoming
surgery on _	10/26/2021	
ensuring that	all aspects of the	ir pre-operative physical have been completed:
Per the North	Dakota State Boa	ard of Health, the components required for clearance for
outpatient su	rgery are as follo	WS:

- Medical history
- Medications
- Allergies
- Physical exam, including:
  - o Heart
  - o Lungs
- Labs/scans (if applicable)
- Declaration stating the patient has been cleared and may proceed with surgery.

Please fax results to the North Dakota Surgery Center @ 701-738-4247 by 10/21/21

### PLEASE NOTE:

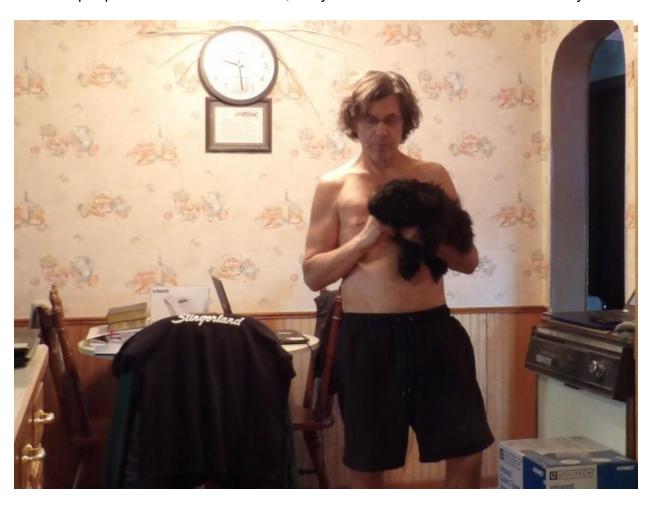
Timely receipt of the patient's pre-operative physical is appreciated.

If the results have not been received by the North Dakota Surgery Center at least one business day prior to the procedure, the patient will need to reschedule.

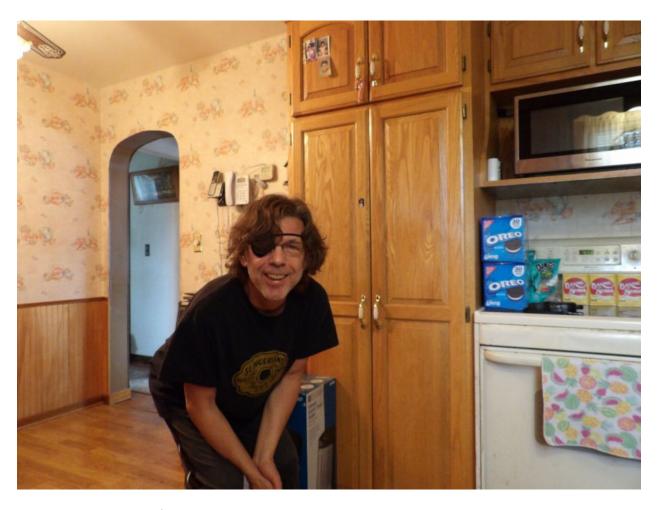
Awaiting surgery I also brought my vehicles in for some work and purchased a nice Kodak camera since I had not owned a fairly good one. If I did breed my puppy the next year I wanted to take nice pictures of any litters. Without being able to do much and so out of balance with only some vision in my left eye, I did learn how to use the basics of the camera and its timer. I took pictures of my dog, cats, and new puppy, and also did some reading on IOL's to pick for cataract surgery and what it entails. I had not been informed on any IOL nor was there any discussion with me regarding IOL's.

While getting in some photos of my pets, I took one of me holding Freddie on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, and wearing a patch over my eye Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The patch was from CVS which I wore since late September of 2021 when glare was bad.

With having Chronic Fatigue Syndrome I do have to take good care of myself in any manner possible. Many say I look young at the age of 58 and have almost no gray hair, so when people ask if there is a secret, I say I've used no scented chemicals in years.



Sunday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, Doug West at 58 years of age, blind in right eye, bifocals. Holding his baby girl Freddie, a Shih Tzu puppy, now enjoying time with his dog Teddy.



Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Doug West at 58 years of age, wearing patch on right eye. I would put my broken bifocals on over the patch to best see out of my left eye.

Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, one week prior to cataract surgery, I met with Dr. Lommen for a pre-op physical. Again upon entering the facility I had my two letters with me as always and presented them at the front desk when checking in for the appointment, as to be allowed entry into the facility. I'd been to the same facility for urgent care three times since mask mandates, presented the same two letters, and of course never wore a mask since I cannot. This was not a problem as my condition was clearly understood.

Disabled people and the nature of disabilities in society are often misunderstood, in such cases like retail stores. One must be more understanding of this and overlook these types of misunderstandings, remaining both positive and patient with others who may misunderstand, which is the way I tend to approach matters. This is also why I've always carried not only the two letters regarding my condition, but also the exemptions to mask mandates due to the fact many may not be aware of such exemptions. With medical providers I've always had the letters with me but often not medical exemptions because I've assumed they were already aware and knowledgeable of exemptions.

When I was taken back by staff to see Dr. Lommen I was told I would have to wear a mask and I explained my condition, presented my two letters, and this was entirely ignored. I had my blue folder with me from the North Dakota Eye Clinic and my two letters, so I waited for Dr. Lommen. Then another staff person came in and did check my pulse and blood pressure which was fine. Upon leaving the room this individual relayed to me in order to see the Doctor I was going to have to wear a mask, and I again explained I cannot do that. This was insisted upon and I am one who does not desire to waste another person's time, nor cancel anything as well. I also needed my vision back and surgery was one week away. I said I can put a mask on but will frequently need to lift it off anyway so that I can both inhale and exhale air, which is exactly what I did. I never wore the mask over my face and lifted it off to speak.

Dr. Lommen listened to my breathing in eight points on my back and I was cleared for surgery. Since many cataract surgeries are done while the patient is awake and others with merely sedation, I asked if I even needed to be here. Dr. Lommen said what they use for anesthesia was not too serious and they don't do anything like place a tube down your throat or use a respirator on anything like that. That alone alerted me to concerns because I had certainly hoped there was nothing along the lines of any respirator or oxygen use. I was finished and from the time in a mask when I did not lift the mask off to breath or speak caused a throat tightening spell on my way home. What I do when this happens is drink water to get my throat loosening and breath very easy, often standing in different positions until it subsides. I had another such attack walking my dogs Saturday afternoon, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and the next Sunday afternoon in my kitchen. On the walk this was from a neighbor using dryer sheets which spew out of the dryer vent, and I had to turn around and get home. I also learned later Dr. Lommen wrote down mild asthma on the physical results, which doesn't makes sense as there were no pulmonary function results provided and my situation is more serious, not mild.

In early 2001 I had left sided chest pain and a local provider ran a stress test, then later wanted to perform an angiogram without explanation, so I declined. I then went to the Mayo Clinic and learned this was from asthma, which also seemed simple to me but for whatever reason this was not achieved locally. After that I've noticed a tendency locally to not acknowledge that I even have asthma or play down the severity of that and my severe chemical sensitivity. Whenever I've offered the two letters regarding this or any medical records from the Mayo Clinic or Allergy Associates, local providers have been unwilling to accept this information and have refused to add this to my records. These letters were with me and my blue folder from the North Dakota Eye Clinic, which I also offered to Dr. Lommen and it was not accepted nor added to my chart. I feel this is of importance prior to anesthesia and surgery but I was cleared as a mild asthma case.

My last surgery was a sinus surgery in April of 1997, in Fargo, ND, and it went well. At that time I was not in my current health condition but I did get sick from anesthesia as usual, so it is of a much greater concern today. I've had five prior surgeries locally and all have gone well, one of them a next day emergency surgery, six surgeries in all.

The next few days I called the facility Dr. Lommen is with and often did not get through, but finally I did speak with someone in attempt to resolve this as I needed to know contents of the physical prior to surgery. I also called other local providers to find out if there was an availability for cataract surgery. If accurate information was not relayed from one facility to another, I was ready to cancel and wanted an alternative plan. With one local provider at two different locations, I only received voice mail after a few calls and waited for several minutes, which was not too reassuring so I'd given up. My other concern other than significant anesthesia and breathing risks, was a plan for both eyes.

Since my appointment with the North Dakota Eye Clinic was arranged through Opticare, I'd only called that facility one time prior to this on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This was regarding a bill I received and I wanted to make sure it was all processed with insurance so I didn't pay it now and receive a check back later. I called at 9:34 a.m. and no one answered so I left a message regarding this and the call duration was 2:03, or two minutes and three seconds. I never received a call back so I wrote a check for \$110.32 and mailed it. I later received a check back in the amount of \$41.32. The telephone number to reach the North Dakota Eye Clinic is 701-775-3151.

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, after concerns of anesthesia and breathing surfaced via seeing Dr. Lommen the day before, Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I had questions of significant concern. I had never spoke with anyone at the North Dakota Surgery Center before, where I was scheduled for surgery Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2021. I was to receive a call from the facility Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, for my arrival time and instructions. With the concerns I had this process was already seeming to be very last minute and I still didn't even know what type of IOL's would be used nor was there an eye plan for a functioning pair of eyes with binocular vision. All concerns needed to be addressed and accommodated within the next two days prior to the weekend, so time was now short.

The telephone number to reach the North Dakota Surgery Center is 701-738-4240. I called four times on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and only received messages or voicemail. At times I tried hitting different options to get through to someone and never reached anyone no matter which option I used and no one answered. The first call was made at 4:04 p.m. with a call duration of 11 seconds. The second call I made was at 4:08 p.m. with a call duration of 27 seconds. The third call was at 4:17 p.m. with a call duration of 54 seconds, and the fourth call at 4:34 p.m. lasting only 7 seconds and not reaching anyone. This was both tiring and exhausting while accomplishing nothing.

Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, I again called the facility after seeing Dr. Lommen regarding inaccuracies and misinformation that may be transferred to the North Dakota Surgery Center prior to surgery and anesthesia. Without my information pertaining to both asthma and severe chemical sensitivity being accepted, that information would not be relayed to the surgery center. The facility also combined me alongside a different Doug West in Grand Forks who was prescribed two pain killers and one tranquilizer which if not removed from records, could and has caused significant problems.

Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, I called Opticare in East Grand Forks, MN, regarding the fact I had several unanswered questions and would likely cancel surgery if my medical concerns were not addressed with accommodations for my condition. I needed new glasses which I could have been provided with following my eye exam in September of 2021 because the lenses could be updated after surgery. I informed Opticare of this but there was a lack of interest with the facility. The telephone number to reach Opticare is 218-773-3438 and I called at 9:05 a.m. with a call duration of 46 seconds as I only reached voice mail. I called again at 9:14 a.m., this time reaching someone with a call duration of 6 minutes and 16 seconds. The facility was not at all helpful, but negative.

My next call was to the North Dakota Eye Clinic and again the number to that facility is 701-775-3151. I called at 9:24 a.m. and the call duration was 1 minute and 57 seconds where I left a detailed message hoping for a call back to address all concerns so I did not have to cancel surgery as I was suffering badly for six weeks now and was coming close to permanent loss of vision in my right eye. Later in the day or early afternoon I called the North Dakota Surgery Center, again at 701-738-4240. The call was made at 1:22 p.m. with a call duration of 9 minutes and 2 seconds, and I did reach a woman.

I explained the matter of my physical and that I was in the facility without a mask until it was time to see Dr. Lommen. It was critical to be certain this would not happen again, especially during a surgery where anesthesia was involved. At first I explained having asthma and couldn't wear a mask so I asked how the North Dakota Surgery Center would handle this. The woman I reached said in that case I would not have to wear a mask and I said that was good because I did not want to wake up from surgery with someone putting a mask on me. She then said but during surgery I will have to wear a surgical mask, so I asked what that was. This didn't make sense to me at all because it is a cataract surgery in which many are done while people are awake.

This woman described the surgical mask as being a type of surgical apparatus and it supplies oxygen. I politely said I would not want anything like that used as it is not at all necessary for cataract surgery and I am best breathing on my own. The woman then said but you will be given oxygen and I replied that I did not want oxygen. I've had 911 type of attacks and the last one oxygen was supplied by the ambulance service and it had an artificial cherry-like taste that did more harm than good so I switched to the fire department's oxygen which was clear. She also said they do this for everybody and when I said but I have asthma, she said we do this for people with asthma, everybody.

What I could not believe about this was their treatment of individuals as "everybody" because I see everyone as individuals, each having a different surgery with individual circumstances. I also said they did not do this during my sinus surgery. She replied saying that was due to working through your nose and mouth so they couldn't. What this established was that if a higher trauma level surgery like that can be done without such an apparatus, whether it could be used or could not, that a cataract surgery could be performed without this device that I did not want used anyway, the call ended politely.

While on the telephone with the North Dakota Surgery Center a call was coming in from the North Dakota Eye Clinic, so I politely ended the call to take the next call. The call was from 701-775-3151 at 1:30 p.m.,lasting 1 hour, 4 minutes, and 48 seconds, and was a woman with the North Dakota Eye Clinic on Dr. Sczepanki's staff. We had a long and polite conversation regarding my health matters, surgery, anesthesia, an eye plan, and surgical apparatus referred to as a surgical mask where I would be given oxygen.

We discussed matters of the North Dakota Surgery Center using a surgical apparatus on all patients when it is not required for cataract surgery. I explained the situation of learning I had asthma after visiting the Mayo Clinic and the tendency locally to not acknowledge that or play down the severity of this a my severe chemical sensitivity, which was of significant concern. I also brought up the time I had an attack and the ambulance provider oxygen had an artificial cherry-like substance that bothered me, so I did not want any oxygen used as it is not at all necessary for this surgery. The throat tightening spells were explained to this woman from Dr. Sczepanski's office and that if there was contact with anyone using scented laundry products alone, combined with anesthesia which typically makes me nauseous, I could end up with a serious throat tightening spell during surgery. I relayed that if this happened it would not show up nor be typically understood until it was too late and I would likely not be brought back.

These health related issues alone were of concern and that my medical information such as the two letters I provided to the North Dakota Eye Clinic, from the Mayo Clinic and Allergy Associates, was critical and not to be ignored. Accuracy of my information was extremely important and without this being recognized and accommodated for it could become dangerous. I also informed her of my information once combined right alongside with a different Doug West in Grand Forks who was prescribed two pain killers and one tranquilizer and how problematic this has been and could be very problematic if I was not certain it was straightened out before surgery. I desired to review the information sent by Dr. Lommen to the North Dakota Surgery Center prior to surgery and I was told they usually do not receive surgical clearances until Monday or Tuesday and some are not cleared. This was a Friday afternoon and that type of short notice clearance did not allow for time to correct nor accommodate anything needed.

The last minute nature of this surgery alone was frightening to me. If anything was not correct there would be nothing left but to cancel surgery. That was already the likely option since it was so last minute without any preparation and without an eye plan for both eyes or what was going to be done for follow up. The lenses used were never discussed with me which was very important and I wanted a plan. I requested to meet with Dr. Coles, O.D., at Opticare, Dr. Sczepanski, and the anesthesiologist all at the same time much like they do at the Mayo Clinic so I would be informed of anesthesia used, my health concerns relayed, and discuss an eye plan. Her reply was a very firm refusal and she said, I doubt that's going to happen. Surgery was scheduled for Tuesday and without knowing more about surgical accommodations relating to my health and an eye plan, I doubted I was going to let anyone cut into my right eye.

One hour was wasted on the telephone and nothing was resolved regarding my health issues or an eye plan. It was almost as though I should not ask questions and answers were not provided. This was a very elitist attitude as my eyes are important to me and nothing about me or my health as an individual was in preparation. Toward the end of our polite discussion I relayed there was going to be no way for me to have surgery where oxygen was going to be provided. Going onto oxygen and back off from it with a surgical apparatus can have risks for me and was not necessary for cataract surgery, which was relayed to this woman from Dr. Sczepanski's office. This was in violation of the ADA, American's with Disabilities Act to not accommodate me for what is typically a short surgery. This was also a huge overstep to use a surgical oxygen apparatus for cataract surgery, as it is absolutely unnecessary to begin with. Furthermore, it was obvious to me this facility seemed to not only be elitist in nature, but willing to be in full violation of the most basic of Nuremberg codes, in that the device should not exceed the experiment. The woman with Dr. Sczepanski's office really did not seem to care.

Use of a surgical apparatus providing oxygen suggested a use of general anesthesia rather than sedation. There was a refusal to answer any questions nor any information was provided to me about the anesthesia, so I tended to assume general anesthesia might be used when I really wanted little to no anesthesia, as many cataract surgeries are performed while people are awake. Without anyone telling me what was used, I had no way to be certain of anything regarding surgery or anesthesia. When I made it clear there would be no way of me going forward with surgery using this apparatus providing oxygen, the woman then asked me if a drape covering would be okay. I asked what a drape covering was and why it would be used during surgery. She informed me it was some type of cloth covering over my face with an opening for my eye. This also made no sense to me and she would not provide a need for this covering. I said that may be okay but it would have to be lifted up on one side so I could breath with an air flow in order to be able to both inhale and exhale. I explained to her I needed a free air flow both in and out for something like that to be used and she hesitated, saying nothing.

Her response was not at all connected to my ability to breath during surgery. The facility was aware of my condition from my first appointment with the North Dakota Eye Clinic and handed the two letters from the Mayo Clinic and Allergy Associates. I needed to provide those letters for entry into the facility which I've carried everywhere and I also informed Dr. Sczepanski and staff I had Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. The copied the letters and gave them back to me, as I am not shy about my condition for my very own well being. This oxygen apparatus and drape covering should have been relayed to me six weeks ago and I could have searched for a different facility if they were unwilling to accommodate a disability of serious concern. My vision was becoming worse with permanent blindness encroaching. She said the drape covering would have to be over my entire face and that my airway had to be covered during surgery. The facility and staff knew this was not an option six weeks earlier. I told her that could not be the case and that no, I would not go forward with surgery using an airway covering. She said she would talk to Dr. Sczepanski. The call ended politely without accommodations.

After six weeks of suffering from blur and glare, I was terribly out of balance. I could not believe I waited six weeks to find this out and did not understand how a need for oxygen was suddenly turned into my airway needing to be covered during surgery in one last minute telephone call. Dr. Sczepanski was aware of my condition as was the staff with the North Dakota Eye Clinic, as I was the only one at my appointment without a mask.

I went to Opticare in East Grand Forks, MN, and informed them I had to cancel surgery as they were not prepared for my health condition. I also relayed how there was an intention of oxygen use and likely a general anesthesia, as no information on this was provided to me, nor was the facility willing to disclose any detailed information. I wanted new glasses and I wanted them today if possible. I've always purchased glasses with my provider but today I needed glasses right away and I asked what I needed to do this so I could get some new glasses. My glasses were not only old, but broken, and while I only had a left eye which was not so good, anything that could help me see better today would be very beneficial. Opticare would not tell me what I needed to go elsewhere and purchase new glasses. The staff then said no and that I needed to go to surgery due to the fact I could go blind. I already told them I had canceled and the facility was not at all ready for someone in my condition, nor would they accommodate my condition. This did not make sense to me whatsoever because if I wanted to see better today, I should be allowed to see better today and no harm could come from a new pair of glasses. I was denied my right to see better and not given any information as to what it would take or what I needed to go get a new pair of glasses. Opticare simply denied me a prescription for glasses and would not aid in me in any manner. Upon leaving Opticare staff at the front desk again asked if I were going to surgery, and I had to say one more time, no, I had canceled as they were not prepared for someone in my condition. Saying no three times and wanting new glasses should not have been this difficult, but it was.

Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, I called Eyemart Express at 11:14 a.m. at 701-792-2607 and the call duration was 3 minutes and 35 seconds. I typically use a main line as my home telephone for business and appointments, and another number for personal use such as friends. That morning I picked up my personal telephone after struggling with small print on one eye through a phone book and called Eyemart Express to find out if my prescription for glasses could be sent to them by electronic means. It could not be done that way as I had to obtain my prescription and bring it there personally.

Hoping Opticare would be open on a Saturday I called there next at 218-773-3438 at 11:18 a.m. with a call duration of 1 minute and 1 second. I only reached a message and thought maybe they were open and called once again at 11:19 a.m. with a call duration of 55 seconds, reaching the same message. I obtained the cell number of Dr. Coles from their website and called him at 218-791-0241 at 11:20 a.m. with a call duration of 16 minutes and 6 seconds. I informed him of my canceling surgery with Dr. Sczepanski in case his staff had not done so and that I wanted new glasses. He told me to come in Monday and get my hard copy prescription as that is what I needed to bring over to Eyemart Express. He was busy at home during this time butchering chickens.

Had Opticare provided me with my hard copy prescription Friday afternoon, rather than repeatedly attempt to coerce me into a surgery I had canceled, I would have had new glasses by late Friday. As I said prior, they asked repeatedly if I were going to surgery when no was sufficient one time, as I had canceled. This appeared to me as an attempt to paint me as someone who was undecided when I was very clear I had canceled. On Saturday evening I looked up the North Dakota Surgery Center online and was happy to have canceled with what I read on their website front page. There was a statement about their number one priority being to protect their medical professionals so they able to continue to serve the community. No one in the community ever deemed their staff to be community servants, as they offer services for money like many other facilities.

When I was told they use an oxygen apparatus for "everybody", people with asthma, "everybody", I felt from their website language and how they treat "everybody" the same way when they are all individuals, that this facility was very elitist in nature and rather fascist in overall attitude. People are unique individuals and everyone has different and individual health issues. I felt relieved to have canceled and learning what I had learned this is not a facility I would ever feel comfortable with my life in their hands. Arrogance with a total disregard for patients appeared more than obvious to me. Over the weekend I sent two messages through their contact form letting them know how they treat people and another regarding my health related concerns. I also sent them a message after my eyes were taken care of elsewhere letting them know it was too bad they decided to treat me so badly. I was about to lose vision permanently and the facility did not care.

I have a BA in Advertising with a Minor in Visual Arts. While in college there was overlap with both Journalism and Public Relations, so one learns how to talk to people and the public. I've also had a significant orientation toward customer service from retail jobs while in high school, as the customer is the most important person. I've professionally performed for years in music as well, and the people you are entertaining are those of significant importance. However, for this facility to not say their patients are the number one priority is very poor in public relations, with a degrading attitude as well. They place themselves as a number one priority and don't seem to care if a patient goes blind while waiting six weeks for surgery. When you are going to cut into my eye, my eye and my life are the number one priority, and if not, you are not going to cut into my eye, ever. While protecting medical professionals and all staff is of significant importance, the number one priority should always be the patients. My right eye was so severe the cataract had gone under the lens and clouded over the entire lens capsule. If this was not cared for soon, it would not be long before I had damage to my cornea which could have resulted in permanent blindness. I had suffered for six weeks in this condition.

Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I took photos of me wearing my eye patch, which was included on page 10 of this document. I was wearing this outside much of the time, walking my dogs and most other times. Also, I did wear the patch driving when glare was too severe. Sunday evening I drove out to Eyemart Express to be sure where that was, as it was easier in low traffic to know where I would be driving to the next day.

Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 10:59 a.m. while I was in the bathroom, my main phone rang four times and it then goes to voice mail. When I looked at the call it was from the North Dakota Surgery Center which didn't make sense to me as Dr. Sczepanski's staff with the North Dakota Eye Clinic knew I had canceled and I had sent two messages to the surgery center about their poor treatment of a man nearly blind. The number was 701-738-4240 and the call duration was 53 seconds, which means by four rings and the call duration they reached my voice mail but did not leave a message. This seemed odd to me and I had other things to do that day. One thing for certain which will be pointed out later in this document is there seems to be no confusion between staff with both the North Dakota Eye Clinic and North Dakota Surgery Center when creating fraudulent medical notes and making false police reports.

There is reference in notes to both facilities shortly apart from me calling and them calling me showing the two facilities and staff talk, as does Opticare with the North Dakota Eye Clinic. Dr. Sczepanski's staff with the North Dakota Eye Clinic knew I had canceled and that I called the North Dakota Surgery Center. Opticare also knew I had canceled surgery, as did Dr. Coles with Opticare from my call to his cell phone on Saturday, when he was butchering chickens. This call from the surgery center was not in any confusion about me having surgery as I had canceled before the weekend on Friday. Also, if there was any notion of me having surgery they would have left a message on my voice mail, which is always on and works through my provider.

I went to Opticare early in the afternoon to pick up my hard copy prescription so I could buy a new pair of glasses. At the front desk I informed them what Dr. Coles had told me about getting my prescription, as I did not want this denied to me again like it was on Friday afternoon. I needed to see as best I could through my left eye and enjoy new frames as well that are not broken on the right stem. They provided me with the hard copy prescription and once again asked if I were going to surgery. This coercion was exhausting as I told the staff no three times on Friday and told Dr. Coles on Saturday that I had canceled. Once again I told them no, I canceled surgery last Friday and politely thanked them for my prescription upon leaving.

The next thing I did was went to Eyemart Express and the service was excellent. Of all the frames I picked a light, nice looking frame and decided on poly lenses as well so they would not scuff easily as those are scratch resistant. They said it would take about one hour so I left to go sign a release of records to get my physical examination for surgical clearance. I was in the process of finding a facility that would take care of me, recognize my health condition, and develop a plan for both eyes to get my sight back. After I filled out the release I picked up my new glasses and wearing them felt great.

It was difficult to understand why Opticare constantly hounded me about going to this surgery I had canceled, as though it was implied that I was undecided when I had canceled last Friday. I later learned this was likely derived from Dr. Sczepanski's staff with the North Dakota Eye Clinic, relating to one of two fraudulent medical notes.

## Patient Eyeglass Prescription Information



Name:

Douglas West 908 Sunset Dr

Grand Forks, ND 58201

Opticare-Forks Vision Clinic

421 DeMers Ave NW

East Grand Forks, MN 56721-1835

Phone: (218) 773-3438

Fax: (218) 773-1645

Eyeglass Rx Type: Multi-Focal

Date of Eyeglass Exam: 9/7/2021

Prescription Expiration Date: 9/7/2023

	Underlying Condition	Sphere	Cylinder	Axis	Add	H.Prism	H.Base	V.Prism	V.Base	Base Curve	Slab Off
Right Lens		+1.00	-0.75	152	2.25						
Left Lens		+1.75	-0.50	082	2.25						

Distant

Near

Binocular PD:

Rx Notes:		

I have examined your eyes in accordance with current regulations.

Destin Coles, o.o.

Destin Coles, OD License # MN2851

**Doctor Signature** 

Doctor Name

West, Douglas J MRN: DOB: Sex: M

## Patient Authorization

	Authorization	Not Applicable	
ation Date:	10/25/2022	and the state of t	
ved Date:	10/26/2021 3	14 PM	
on 10/26/2021 3:14 F	PM by Scanned, Docum	nent: FGO Douglas J W	fest (below)
Authorization of Protected H	for Disclosure lealth Information		
Pull Address 908 Phone Number: 10 Maiden/Provious Names	Surset Drive	Grandforks, NE	S8201
Instructions: Fill out	l each section of the form in i	ts entirety. Fallure to do so m	sy delay processing of your requi
Release Information		Release Information	
Name		Name/Facility:	10
Addies		Address	14
City/State/Zin	1-1	City/State/Zip	
Brass Gra	ind forks		
Phone		Phone	
Purpose of Release			
☐ Continuing Medical ☐ Insurance Claim ☐ Application for Insur	Q 9 ability Determinati	On Other:	
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☐ Abstract (history & a provider notes related ☐ Discharge Summar ☐ Psychological Evals ☐ Lab / Pathology Res ☐ Skilling Statements ☐ Alcohol/Drug Treatin	to specific Smethame). y GR Records LiAsamts GRG / Cardiolog ports Rediology Imagi	☐ History & Physical Immunization Reco	
AUTHORIZE RE	LEASE OF ALL ALCOHOL AN RECORDS I SPECIFIED ABO	D / OR DRUG TREATMENT R VE UNLESS OTHERWISE INC drug treatment records protect	
If (1) action was previous insurance coverage. I a To' section. I understant once disclosed, informa-	ally taken in reliance on this author authorize the facility/provider to dis d this may include information reg stion may be re-disclosed by the re a sign. Unless allowed by law, my	stration, or (2) if this authorization close medical information to the pa- parding mental health, alcohol/drug acipient and no longer protected.	eleasing records. A revocation is not va- was obtained as a condition for obtains rity identified in the "Release information use, end HIV treatment." Lunderstand to understand this authorization is volunta fitly to obtain treatment, receive payme
and that I may refuse to or my eligibility for bene	efita.		

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Oct 25th 2021 @ 02:15:37 pm

West, Douglas

Insurance: 100 - None

Promise Times

Pair 1 - Oct 25th 2021 @ 03:19:37 pm

#### Single Items

10/25/2021	004040000012	\$124.95
Surface Poly	FT-28 (2 Lens)	
10/25/2021	000448003378	\$69.95
ITECH CIRCUIT	F GUN 52	

\$194.90
\$0.00
\$0.00
\$0.00

Total	\$194.90
Payment (Cash)	\$200.00
Payment (Cash)	\$-5.10

Balance \$0.00



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Associate: Chase M

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Grab a Pair and Get Out There!

Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 9:27 a.m., a friend called me on my line I use mostly for friends and we talked for 68 minutes and 56 seconds. We were talking about my eyes and where I may look for getting them cared for before going blind. While on the phone with him a call came in on my other main home phone I use for appointments and other formal matters. I also make and receive calls to my cousin on that line as I do with other relatives due to the fact it's been the known number to this house since 1959.

My other telephone started ringing from 701-215-9794 which was not a recognized number, so being on the phone with a friend I said I wonder who that is because I did not know the number. This call was at 9:58 a.m. with a call duration of 50 seconds and no voice mail message was left even though it rang four times and my voice mail was reached. After that the phone I was on with my friend had a signal come in that a call was now being made to that phone. This was at 10:00 a.m. and this time with a call duration of 1 minute and 26 seconds. The call was also from 701- 215-9794 and I told my friend while on talking on the phone with him I am going downstairs to my main computer to see if a message was left. My voice mail messages come into my email as an attached audio file with details about the call, and the phones keep detailed logs.

I listened to this message and it was a police officer misrepresenting himself with a false name as an officer "Fooko", when I later obtained a report and his name is Fuka. He left a message regarding the messages I had left with the North Dakota Surgery Center over the weekend. This seemed very peculiar as it was now Tuesday and this facility had the messages during the weekend and on Monday. I told my friend who knew well about my having canceled surgery last Friday that it was a cop and that surgery center called a cop and I could understand why. We chuckled a little and kept talking as my eyes were of my concern. I later obtained a report in January of 2022 as I had no time to do such things while nearly blind with only a half decent left eye to see out of, now with new glasses. Driving was very difficult so I tended to only go anywhere if it was necessary. At the time I was not too concerned with this due to my suffering of a blind right eye. What I learned later after surgery on both eyes was more than shocking.

Later that day I made two calls about getting in for trimming my hair. With my follicle condition I found someone who is very skilled in working with baby soft wavy hair so I can grow it out and leave it alone rather than clip it short which causes problems, as does a close shave to my face. I could not make that day and had an appointment with Dr. Coles at Opticare the next morning. Since I don't like wasting another person's time nor canceling appointments, this was supposed to be for follow up after surgery which Dr. Coles was aware of my canceling last Friday. No one from Opticare called to cancel this appointment so I had hoped we could use the time to discuss referring me to a different surgeon with a different facility. I already did a little looking around for another facility and hope Dr. Coles could be of help with this. My appointment with him was for Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 8:10 a.m. It was darkening earlier at this time too so getting around was becoming more difficult, as this was before fallback Sunday so I was nearly blind, running out of time, dizzy, out of balance, and was in need of help.

Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I went to Opticare for my appointment at 8:10 a.m. with Dr. Coles. It was fairly dark and raining lightly so the drive was difficult. I had my blue folder with me from the North Dakota Eye Clinic with all scheduled appointments and I walked in up to the front counter. A woman looked at me like she had seen a ghost and asked what I was doing there. I said I had an appointment and I went to my blue folder, then pulled it out. The woman said no, that was for after surgery and you didn't go to your surgery. I again said no, I had canceled last Friday if you remember. I then told her I thought this would be a good time to meet with Dr. Coles and talk about referring me to a different facility. She said no and more or less wanted me to leave, so I went home.

Later that day I made another call on my hair and I got in. It had been a long time since I'd been in and I had the black patch on my eye. The hair dresser seemed surprised when I told her I went blind in my right eye. I showed her my newer glasses I just bought two days before this and told her about the experience I had and that I had to cancel surgery here. I explained how I went to my appointment earlier that morning but without any referral elsewhere I was sort of on my own and that I would think of something. At the end when leaving I was joking with her about my eye and how everything was a blur and nothing more. She was standing behind the counter and I laughed about when I close my left eye I could only by memory see her mask and the rest of her sort of blended in with the products behind her. I then told her if it were not for my left eye she could turn sideways, duck behind the counter, and blend away from there and I could not find her if I wanted to. I thanked her and said I will call again when I can see again.

At this point I needed to find a solution and fast before permanent vision loss occurred in my right eye. Days were getting shorter with the clocks to fall back the upcoming weekend. I was becoming more blind and suffering badly. My world was getting small and the status of vulnerable adult was surrounding me as it was increasingly difficult to drive or do much of anything. After finishing outside house projects I planned to clean up in my house at the least, but even cleaning a floor was hard as I couldn't distinguish wood grain from floor dirt. When I cleaned something I had to close my right eye and get up close with my left eye, so I gave up on most anything as to not struggle but rest and find a solution. I started looking for different facilities online and other cataract matters, such as the various IOL's to select from and anything else I could do to help before my right eye became worse to a point of corneal damage. I found Can-c eye drops online and they are to help with cataracts with lubrication and antioxidant properties. At first I thought they may be too much like a gimmick and were not worth the bother, but then decided to read what people actually attained for results such as message boards and things of that nature. Many said they helped significantly and others had little benefit. Before permanent damage set into my right eye if not already, I felt I best do anything I can, so I ordered two bottles on Friday, November 5th, 2021.

The Can-c drops arrived much earlier than the scheduled delivery date and they did help a little. Our postal carrier said I wasn't wearing my patch and I told him the drops helped a little. They were no cure for a clouded over lens capsule but they did help.

### Address

Doug West 908 Sunset Dr Grand Forks, ND 58201

## **Delivery date**

Tue, Nov 9

## 1 item

Sold by FASHION NATION

### **Fulfilled by Walmart**



Can-c lubricant eye drops with n-acetylcamosine 2 - 5 ml vials

\$61.00

\$30.50/EA

Qty: 2

\$30.50 ea

# Order summary

Subtotal \$61.00

Taxes \$4.42

Total \$65.42

# Payment method



Temporary hold: \$65.42

Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, I called a facility in Fargo, ND, and talked with staff for just about 10 minutes. I explained my cataract condition and my health conditions such as they would relate to surgery. I also mentioned why I canceled in Grand Forks with the intended use of an oxygen apparatus or if not some type of drape covering. Also, I did talk about wanting to have both eyes operated on so I could have a functioning pair of eyes. Since I was told by Dr. Sczepanski this was not covered by insurance I said I was willing to pay for my left eye and the person I spoke with took my information.

Monday, November 8th, 2021, I received a call back from the facility and they let me know it would not be general anesthesia used but only sedation without the use of any oxygen apparatus or drape covering, but an eye tent that would not be directly over my airway. The person calling asked if this would be okay and I said yes, and we made an appointment for mid November. I also went on to inform them since I have no choice but to have lens removal performed with IOL's put in place I wanted to not only have both eyes done, but to develop the best vision plan going forward. I said at my age since this is necessary, I want to look at this positively and as an eye plan for me to obtain a new pair of eyes. I also brought up about how I would pay for the left eye since I was told by Dr. Sczepanski this was not covered by insurance. Also, I said I wanted this to be a very positive after what I went through in Grand Forks, and that if anything goes wrong for any reason such as an IOL needing to be done over, that I will simply pay for that as well in the event something happened. People often start complaining or if there is a cost they may desire to bicker about who will pay for it and things of that nature. I was very clear that under no circumstances do I want anything to be negative like that on my part due to the fact negativity is not a solution to obtaining a new pair of eyes. I was told they would want records from my last eye exam so I said I would get that done today.

This call back was just under 12 minutes so unlike with the North Dakota Eye Clinic that wasted more than one hour on the telephone and accomplished nothing, with this facility there was just under 22 minutes on the telephone of the two calls combined and all issues were addressed, all questions answered, and we were ready to move forward which was nothing like Dr. Sczepanski's staff or himself. Nothing was done last minute either and there were no last minute surprises of any kind regarding surgery.

At 12:58 p.m., shortly after being off the telephone, I called Opticare in East Grand Forks, MN, with a call duration of 3 minutes and 33 seconds. I requested a release form as a facility desired records from my last eye exam. I later went to Opticare and they had be fill out the release form at the front counter. Since I've never filled out a release there I asked where to write all information and staff told me what to write and where, then looked at it and said it was good. I later felt I should have requested my records personally rather than requesting they be sent to the facility in Fargo, ND. When I did arrive for my eye exam in Fargo they asked about my records from my last eye exam and I said they should have it by now, which was Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and the release was filled out on November 8<sup>th</sup>. They never received my records from Opticare so we started from the beginning and the facility was excellent.

Opticare and Dr. Coles had every opportunity to refer me to a different facility when I showed up for my appointment Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, but instead didn't seem to want me there. Also, they did not forward my September 2021 eye exam to Fargo, leaving me on my own entirely while nearly blind. I had not too great of vision in my left eye with significant glare and no vision in my right eye whatsoever. I was left to find Can-c eye drops which helped, and to find a facility that could take care of my eyes soon before I went permanently blind in my right eye. It was becoming more difficult to do anything and there was less daylight than six weeks prior. I was soon about to be a vulnerable adult in my condition. Before I contacted a few other facilities and with great results from the one that took care of me, I sat up at nights in tears thinking what in the world am I going to do now. Driving was difficult and days were short. I had to either find a facility and prevail with a new pair of eyes or face going blind.

I dressed up in a suit for each and every appointment other than the two surgeries, as this was very important to me. The eye exam in Fargo was much more thorough than the one at the North Dakota Eye Clinic, and more lengthy as well. Before my very first appointment I did more reading on IOL's to help select the best lenses for my eyes and money was not a factor as I offered to pay Dr. Sczepanski for this myself. He never discussed IOL's with me nor told me what he intended on using for only my right eye, and that was of serious concern as well as my health condition. I read about multifocal IOL's, enhanced, and monofocal IOL's and finding what seemed best was not easy, but I did my research on one eye because I had to. Out of all the IOL's I decided a monofocal was best as enhanced IOL's and multifocal IOL's tend to have more residual side effects of things like halos and glare. One can benefit from those more without side effects but the chances of more halos on headlights and night vision difficulties are valid.

The TECNIS Eyhance was in trials for two years and approved in the US earlier that year in 2021. Older TECNIS IOL's have all had an improved night vision via materials used, so I liked that from the start. But the Eyhance had more UV blocking and with the hydrophobic acrylic materials, frosted edges, everything to minimize glare seemed to be about the best IOL there could be for me. They are a monofocal but designed much along the concept of an enhanced lens but without the clinical claim of the technological boost of an enhanced lens. Enhanced IOL's are typically set for distance and have an improved focus depth through corneal aberrational corrections so your mid and close range are typically good with perhaps the need for minimal glasses. They do however at times have more halos and reduced night vision. The TECNIS Eyhance was designed with the corneal aberrational corrections as well through the materials and curves of the lens, and I felt in all my reading they would be good for me as a monofocal lens set for distance. Designed on a concept of an enhanced lens but less chance of side effects.

The Eyhance being a monofocal lens when set for distance typically provides great binocular distance vision. Without a guarantee of course, the close up expected results is to see a person's face clearly when sitting across a dinner table. A person may end up slightly better for close up vision as well, and I just thought it had to work.

After my eye exam I met with a surgeon and we discussed lenses. I always had an AARP bag with me filled with glasses, records, and paperwork. I had the PDF file printed on the Eyhance with me as well. We discussed multifocal and enhanced lenses and I said I just didn't want to try those because of residual effects. The surgeon said we have these Eyhance. I said, did you say Eyhance, wait, I will show you what a nerd I am and I went to my AARP bag, then pulled out the PDF file. I asked these, the Eyhance DIB00, and that was it, so I said that is what I want. This facility is fantastic on emphasis about the way in which a person uses their eyes, as we are all individuals. We talked about the aberrational corrections for improved depth of focus and how close up vision may be a clear face across a dinner table and I liked it so that was the pick. I was also asked if I rub my eyes and I said yes, with chronic dry eye and severe allergies I am an eye rubber, much so in July and August. The surgeon then gave me a bottle of Refresh Relieva eye drops and told me to use these three times a day and don't rub your eyes as that wears away your eye zonules which are needed for the IOL's to heal in well, so using the drops and not rubbing my eyes was critical. I asked if I should buy more of these and continue using them and I was told yes, do just that. Once you have IOL's put in of course you can no longer rub your eyes so I broke that habit that day.

Critical information like this was never discussed with me by Dr. Sczepanski with the North Dakota Eye Clinic and it is very important to do so. If you are not told you should no longer and cannot rub your eyes, you will continue to do so. With that alone your zonules may be minimal before surgery and you could tear an IOL off at a later time. As previously mentioned, the North Dakota Eye Clinic and North Dakota Surgery Center, at the last minute, wasted more than one hour on the telephone and never provided me with any such information, so I canceled. I don't understand why Opticare and Dr. Coles would not have referred me to the facility I found in Fargo when I had no choice but to cancel in Grand Forks, as I was a patient there for well over a decade. This was the worst eye and prior surgical experience I have ever had while I made positive efforts.

In Fargo while meeting with the surgeon I also said I will pay for my left eye since it is not covered by insurance. This is what I was told by Dr. Sczepanski. The surgeon said no, it will be covered due to my left eye and the very fact I would be too out of balance, which is what concerned me in the first place for an eye plan. I had bifocal glasses for years and used mid range at a computer to avoid trifocals, which grew tiring, so there was no good way to proceed with only one eye. It was a relief to know this as an eye plan for both eyes was of serious concern to me. While an Ehyance lens cost less than an enhanced or multifocal, I read out of pocket cost for the Eyhance was a little more than older monofocals. That and insurance covering surgery for both eyes saved me money which was great, even though I was willing to spend anything to get a fitting pair of new eyes. I never placed cost or insurance coverage first, but my eyes were first for me and my health. I was ready to spend a lot more on IOL's for whatever was the best fit for me, and I was prepared to pay for surgery on my left eye. Expense was secondary but I enjoyed paying much less for a fantastic IOL that was the best fit for me, and the fact surgery on both eyes was covered by insurance.

My surgery dates were mailed to me for mid December of 2021 and early January of 2022, three weeks apart. I was also contacted and told the facility would need payment for my out of pocket portion for two Eyhance IOL's, so I sent a check. I was also sent a questionnaire from the surgery center which I filled out all my health history information and last surgery which was my sinus surgery in April of 1997. Then I received a phone call about a cancellation and I felt blessed. I accepted that and my right eye was moved up to early December of 2021 and my left eye one week after in mid December of 2021.

The North Dakota Eye Clinic never discussed any lens with me and refused to do so even at the last minute, as though everything was shrouded in secrecy. There was no payment for IOL's requested either, as though no eye plan existed. I was also not contacted early regarding health information prior to surgery. Nothing like that was set up other than a call the day before with instructions which is very last minute.

In Fargo, ND, the surgery center called several days before regarding my filled out questionnaire they sent earlier. They asked several questions and provided instructions too, which seemed to be what one would expect. This way if there was anything that could be or question, the process allowed for adaption and/or changes. I was asked since I have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome if I was having any fibromyalgia pain, and I said no but I do get that at times. I said I had that for awhile early last winter after my Dad passed away, as there was significant stress and estate matters to deal with. I said recently I had just shoveled all the snow at my house by hand for some exercise and had nothing more than normal muscular stiffness. I also mentioned I had been resting plenty prior to surgery and the exercise was good, and that I was very clear in my lungs and sinuses so I felt just great and things could not be better. They also asked since I cannot wear a mask if I would wear a face shield and if that would be okay. I said that should be fine and would only be a problem if for some reason it fogged and made the air in front of me causing a feeling of congestion, otherwise that would be just fine.

I had surgery on my right eye and it felt good to wake up being able to see again, it was much like a miracle and even with an eye shield taped on I could see from my right eye for the first time in a very long time. Before surgery the nurse showed me a button to hit if anything was wrong and she pressed it for me so I heard the sound it made around the building. She said if you press that button she will come running. I was a little groggy and felt I could get away with this, so I hit the button and the nurse showed up quickly along with another nurse and asked what was wrong. I said nothing, but you said if I hit this button you would come running, so I hit the button and you came running. The staff was very kind and it was actually a fun experience. It felt great to be treated so well and see again clearly when I was very nervous about my right eye and after the horrible experience with the North Dakota Eye Clinic and North Dakota Surgery Center.

After surgery I had an eye appointment and could read a chart at about 20/40 from my right eye already. Everything looked good and I used all my prescribed eye drops, taped the eye shield on every night and followed all instructions, which was very important.

During the week awaiting surgery on my left eye I could function better and it was so good to see again. But I must admit that is when I realized how bad my left eye was which I thought was my good eye, as it was all I had. I would have been terribly out of balance had I been left that way by Dr. Sczepanski, and I was for one week. I even went to Eyemart Express to see if they could update my glasses to no prescription on my right eye, but they could not do that without a prescription. I thought about going to a store to get cheap cheaters and break to right eye lens off because the out of balance was difficult to cope with. Colors looked great from my right eye now and from my left eye things were more brown a dull. My left eye had significant glare when outside or while driving and it was not such a good eye after all. I really could not wait to get my left eye taken care of and have matching colors with consistent binocular vision.

During my surgery on my left eye I had a different nurse and she was fantastic. I had flinched like a dummy when she was inserting an I.V. and I messed her up. She then checked it to make sure and she had to do it over. She was so good that even though she had to do this over because of me, the next day I had no mark on my arm or hand other than a tiny dot. I didn't even have a light yellow bruise of anything. She was as professional and talented as one could be, as was everyone with these facilities in Fargo, and I was treated kindly at all times. Again I went for an exam on my left eye and was reading like last week on my right eye. This was also a one week follow up for my right eye and I was doing quite well with that. I was provided with some plastic cheaters to use with no prescription and a slight bifocal lens for close up vision.

The next day was a Friday and I was at home when a crown came loose on a tooth, one day after surgery and a weekend this was not fun. However, Monday I called my Dentist and got in that afternoon. I drove over there without my cheater glasses and only some cheap sunglasses I had for all the snow and driving. My crown was fixed and for the first time in many years I wrote a check without any glasses whatsoever, like a miracle.

Later that week I had a one week follow up appointment for my left eye which was just before Christmas. I was reading charts at 20/20 and that was the best present before Christmas I received, ever. I could now drive without glasses, write a check, and many other things. I was nowhere near adjusted yet and had a follow up appointment in mid January as well, but to be in my condition without vision in my right eye, reading a chart that well was much like a miracle. I of course had immediate regrowth around the edges of the lens capsule on my right eye since it was severe and clouded entirely over my original lens capsule, but that had to be dealt with at a later time after healing entirely.

I've always been good to the blind and at times delivered pizza to a blind man, ensuring he got the right change. During college at UND a blind woman was stuck at a sidewalk block because of construction on the Old Science building, so I helped her around and back onto the sidewalk. This happened again while I lived at an apartment. A blind man got off the sidewalk and into our parking lot, so I helped him back to the sidewalk. He said whatever you do, if you go somewhere, don't go blind, and I've never forgot that.

After more than 25 years I still remember that man and seeing him caught between two parked cars in our parking lot. He was kind with a good heart, tall, short brown hair, and his eyes looked different in a way that I remember the look of his eyes. When I helped him back to the sidewalk he had been on his way to a convenience store. I offered to help him there and back, but he said no and that he now knew where he was and where he was going so he will be fine and be able to get to the store and back. When he said whatever you do, if you go somewhere, don't go blind, he smiled and I couldn't believe the good nature of this man. There are two things about this man and the incident that have recently become clear to me. I was once tested at the Mayo Clinic and have an above average IQ and an aptitude skill set missing nothing. I was told I can do or learn anything without the need of a teacher and they were impressed. The other thing was that my long term memory was roughly twice that of anyone tested.

While only nearly blind I still had some vision in my left eye and I could still drive a little but not without severe difficulty. Driving was extremely stressful and hard to maintain a straight path without being able to see from side to side. Side to side is relevant in this and oncoming cars were hard even down residential streets with low traffic. I had to pay close attention to oncoming cars but could not see the curb. One thing about the blind man I helped is that years later while living in an apartment there was a blind man down the hall whom I'd only seen once. He was tall but heavier with less hair, but his eyes and face were of the man I'd helped in our parking lot. I did not realize this until recently but he was the same man. The second thing about that man is that since he could get to the store and back after helping him, I always wondered what got him lost and off the sidewalk, into our parking lot. After going nearly blind, side to side being the pertinent matter, I finally figured it out. His guide was his cane and knowledge of where he was and where he was going, that sort of thing. Sidewalks tend to have grass or something of a border on each side. The street was to his right and our parking lot to his left, so the driveway approach was on his right side and the lot to his left. During that stretch of sidewalk there was concrete on both sides and no border such as grass, especially to his left as the lot and sidewalk were connected, and that is likely why he lost his place.

Mistreating a blind person is horrible, even someone partially blind and suffering out of balance while struggling with even the basics of life. I feel blessed in that I was going blind and received a second chance, now with vision I have not had in years. I am very grateful for my new eyes and that I have always been good to the blind in the past. At the very least a medical provider should likely know how to treat someone in blindness.

It was just before Christmas and I received not only my sight back, but a new pair of eyes like I have not had for many years. I still had to adjust and would often open and close each individual eye, as both were different in sight at different distances. The pupil in my right eye was larger than my left pupil and they now match better but the right at times becomes larger. The regrowth was causing some distance problems and fuzz with my right eye but overall I was doing well. I wrote my brother and sister Christmas Eve to let them know how I was doing. This email is consistent with contents of this document.

## Christmas Eyes

From:	Doug West ·	•
To:	Lori	, Darrin

Date: Fri, 24 Dec 2021 19:27:57 - 0600

Merry Christmas,

I do hope all is well and you have a lovely Christmas. I'm a little worn out and had to go to Fargo again yesterday, so I'm not doing much of anything not feeling all that well. Just walk the dogs, move a little snow if I can, as I have and need to be careful but I'm more in the clear for activity now.

My right eye lost all vision quite some time ago and I didn't notice it with the glare. I was going to get in for dental and eyes and one week before I opened and closed each eye individually, and realized I couldn't see anything from my right eye. The cataract clouded over the entire eye, and then they were going to fix it in town but I felt there were problems, and there was no vision plan going forward.

I got in at the best place in Fargo mid November and the drive was very hard as I had about half of one eye left. I got hooked up with the best surgeon who does cornear transplants and I think it was because I could have likely needed one. They had to numb my eye nearly to frozed for density tests. I was supposed to get it fixed last week and the left eye early next month. I would wear a patch to block the blur, it was like a sky like stuck on your eye, all light glaring in and nothing clear, dizzy, no depth perception with one eye. I prayed a lot and just tried to hang in there, since I could see light that was good, and cried at times going to bed.

They called and had a cancellation, so I got my right eye fixed and last week got the left eye fixed. I've been in bifocals 14 years and now I drive without glasses and went to the Dentist Monday because a cap fell off after years and he glued it. I wore sunglasses and have to outside for a long time, and driving, but I brought no cheaters with me and wrote a check without any glasses at all. I got the latest monofocal lenses as the multifocals can give halos, glare, and reduced night vision but are getting better. There was a little more cost on them after insurance than older standard mono lenses, but not all that much. Multi's can get into a few thousand for each eye and not covered, but I didn't want them anyway with the possible side effects.

Driving is hard out of town, yesterday was fog, and the interstate is a bit fast yet, but many things are quite good already. I go back in three weeks and I will be mostly healed and done with drops, swelling

should be gone altogether and mostly is now. I still can't ready perfectly up close and my right eye has a little fuzz in the way out distance, but the cataract is growing back around the lens capsule which could be the cause. Bad one like this do that so she has to laser it off the edges and I don't know if that will be just once or more times until it stops growing over, just don't know yet. I may do some additional fixes to my eyes and then not need glasses at all, just not sure yet. When you get 20/20 that is a chart read, so even though my right eye isn't perfect yet, needs a laser job, etc, I scored 20/20 vision from my right eye yesterday and it was totally blind two weeks ago, and my left eye is coming in as the swelling goes down.

I pray you all have a wonderful Christmas. Praise the Lord as He has never let me down. After 14 years of bifocals and going blind for months, I got new eyes for Christmas. I'm pretty worn out and not doing a lot but I must have received the best Christmas gift of anyone in the entire world, blessed to see Christmas with my own two new eyes, and without glasses.

God Bless, Doug

January of 2022 I had my final eye exam and I was healed so I no longer needed any surgical eye drops. I continue to use the Refresh Relieva drops to keep my eyes moist and never rub them, as that was a habit in need of breaking prior to surgery. I was then scheduled in early February to have a laser procedure for regrowth but this was only for my right eye. At first I thought it may be both eyes but just the right one. I also learned my astigmatism in my left eye was very slight, so I needed no other procedures after this, nor any surgeries which was fine with me. I didn't get new glasses yet as it was decided to wait until after the procedure and follow up from that.

February of 2022 I had a laser procedure completed on my right eye for regrowth of the cataract around the lens capsule of the new Eyhance IOL. It was very severe with the regrowth beginning not long after surgery. After the procedure I purchased a beautiful pair of Oakley black mirror teardrop shades which I wear almost anytime I am outside or while driving. I also grabbed some yellow tinted night vision goggles that works great if glare is strong while driving at night. I then went back for a final eye exam in less than two weeks and everything looked great. It is likely that I will never need a procedure again as the regrowth appears non existent. I was given my hard copy prescription so I could go back to Eyemart Express in Grand Forks, ND, to have glasses updated and they were updated for free. Eyemart Express provided excellent service and fitted my glasses tighter since I no longer wore an eye patch with glasses over the top. Following my eye exam I picked out a pair of Oakley glasses with anti glare too, so I use one pair on a computer and my Oakley's at other times. My glasses are now without prescription and just a small bifocal on the bottom for small things in a close up range. I requested a second pair of shades as well so if anything happens I have a backup pair.

March of 2022 I was called that my glasses were in and backup pair of shades. I made my 8<sup>th</sup> and last trip to Fargo, ND, to pick up these items. A portion of my glasses were also covered by insurance due to a one time post surgical change to my prescription, and my backup pair of shades were discounted. I could not have been treated better by anyone and I was fitted with the best of eyewear as well. It is nice not needing glasses for most things, even sitting at a computer I can go with or without glasses. I also left a thank you letter at this last visit and received two thank you cards, two days apart after surgery. These were hand written and hand signed by the entire staff.

After surgery I lost appetite for awhile and also after my laser procedure. I had to adjust all over again briefly after the procedure. I was only able to be on a computer a little at a time until recently. In late February and early March I started getting back on a computer by purchasing additional music gear and it was rather fun. This consisted merely of light computing such as searching, purchasing, and unpacking items at home so I could leave feedback. It has only been until later in March of 2022 that I've been able to sit down and type at length. I had a few obstacles of stress during my eye recovery, such as needing new tires on my car for the trips to Fargo, a few minor vehicle problems that I typically don't have in the winter. My house iced up too so I had to go outside and take that off. However, there was one huge stress factor that I will address next.

Hasler

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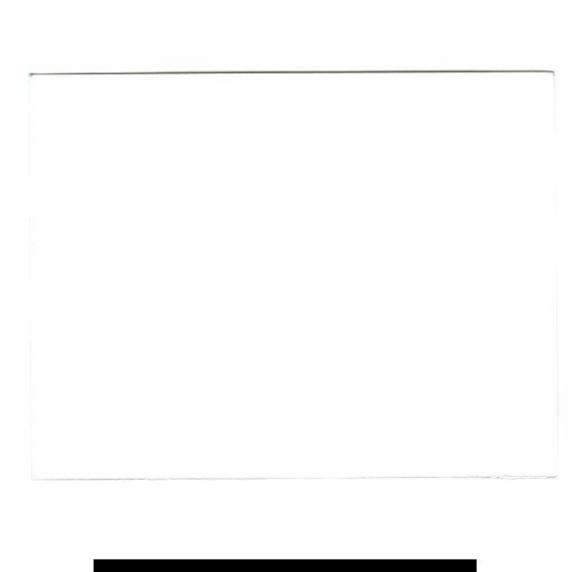
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Doug West 908 Sunset Dr. Grand Forks, NO 58201

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THANK YOU

Best Wishes from all of us!

Doug,

So glad your surgery went

weel. Best Wishes for a comfortable

Recovery! Take lase,

THANK YOU

Best Wishes from all of us!

You are receiving this thank you letter today because I am picking up my Oakley glasses and another pair of Oakley shades. I love my first pair so I wanted another. The night glasses have been helpful too, although while wearing those along with a stocking cap friends have said I look like a beetle. That's cool, beetle or human, they're quite effective. With all the snow this year, the Oakley shades have made driving significantly easier. I wear them much indoors too wherever there are bright lights with white ceilings.

I would like anyone and everyone in your staff to read this letter if desired, but not only staff with but also and but also are and beyond as everyone treated me well and were so very kind. Everyone also did an excellent job at every point in my surgery, exams, and eyewear. You provide the best services in this area and beyond. My lenses and all eyewear have been a perfect fit in every way possible. The Eyhance lens had to be made for my eyes, as I barely need glasses and have little residual effects. I can see just fine in any dim lighting to where if something is on my floor at home in a dim hall, I can spot it and know what it is without difficulty. Before surgery I could not distinguish between an object or shadow.

When I lost all vision in my right eye the timing could not have been worse for me. I lost both parents one year apart, so with getting onto things both outside and inside my home, all progress with anything had to stop and I could barely drive. Being alone this was simply a very difficult time and with the timing so bad for me, all of you made things better and rather quickly as well. If you think at times I don't remember how difficult this was and tears come to my eyes, they do, as once I arrived at your facilities, things were no longer difficult, but rather easy. Being alone, for now, was very hard while going blind. I felt the status of becoming a vulnerable adult was near to my future and all I could think is what in the world am I going to do now. Now I drive around without glasses which I haven't done in nearly fifteen years. When I arrived for my first appointment I was rattled and in rough shape, but

My six prior surgeries have all gone well, the last with in Fargo for sinuses in 1997 and he was great. All surgeries I've had, even an emergency surgery have turned out well and were handled professionally. However, my eye surgeries have been the ultimate of all, as for whatever reason when you lose your vision and come out far better than you were years ago, it hits a certain spot with a person. We was the most professional of all surgeons I've had for anything, and I feel is the best there is anywhere. If anyone does not agree, I would gladly challenge them to find someone better, as there is no one better. The way all staff treated me was excellent, so kind and professional at all times no matter how significant my difficulties were. In my condition that made each and every day for me. I dressed up for every appointment as this was of extreme importance to me. I completed every follow up instruction provided to me, and still do using the refresh drops and never rubbing my eyes. I also need some safety goggles for the times when I am under a vehicle, sharpening a lawn mower blade, and things of that nature.

Grading you like a professor, I am sticking everyone with an F+++, because through my new eyes today, you have attained for me, Freakishly Fantastic Focus! My adjustment is coming along well and I'm loving it. I have been back on a computer lately buying up lots of Bose and Yamaha music gear, so it was a fun way to attain the gear and get my computing skills back. Once I'm back on my game and caught up, I have an upper floor of my house filled with several vintage drum kits and all kinds of professional audio gear of studio quality which can also be used for live gigs. It's going to be fun playing again down the road and not wearing glasses, just being me and loving it!

I will see you again next year for my February 13th appointment. Thank you for everything,

Shortly after surgery I wondered how it was so simple and professional to obtain a pair of eyes, now reading charts at 20/20 vision, and why my horrible experience with the North Dakota Eye Clinic and North Dakota Surgery Center even occurred. I made requests for records with the North Dakota Eye Clinic and with Opticare, receiving eye exams and notes. At roughly the end of my requests Opticare did send my two letters back to me pertaining to breathing and health conditions from the Mayo Clinic and Allergy Associates. Opticare at least had these on file while the North Dakota Eye Clinic later claimed not to have these letters on file. As I stated previously, I carried these letters with me since mask mandates began, as it is the only way I can enter facilities without a mask. I handed them to staff at the North Dakota Eye Clinic in the presence of Dr. Sczepanski, they were taken down a hall, copied, placed on file, and handed back to me, so it is ridiculous to claim they did not have these. This is in defense of false allegations made by both the North Dakota Eye Clinic and North Dakota Surgery Center regarding my character, and in support of two notes generated entirely by fraud.

December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I requested records from the North Dakota Eye Clinic and was sent a release form. I filled out the form and sent it back resulting in my receiving via USPS some eye exam records. A few days later I received additional records and two fraudulent medical notes, which were a bit shocking and didn't make sense. At the time with new eyes, many things looked at were difficult to make sense of and I thought perhaps these were edited at a later date. I finally realized the North Dakota Eye Clinic and North Dakota Surgery Center wanted to harm me on the way out. This was likely because they knew I greatly needed help and had to go elsewhere. Upon doing so I was going to learn what I learned, that I received a new pair of eyes in a professional manner, which were in fact covered by insurance. Dr. Sczepanski told me this was not covered by insurance and I offered to pay for it myself. In the end I only paid the out of pocket portion of my IOL's, which were \$499 per IOL, followed by only a small bill from surgery and a bill for out of pocket eye exam expense. I also purchased great eyewear which I was fitted in for all my needs, night driving, anti glare glasses, shades, etc.

After the requests for records and receiving them, there was fraud in the notes and I suspected fraud due to the fact Dr. Sczepanski said this was not covered by insurance when it was in fact covered. I felt to be quite accurate in my suspicions after receiving fraudulent medical notes, that upon first sight did not make sense to me. Recovering from blindness is difficult with eyes not adjusted yet. One eye can see in a different range and things like that, and I am much more adjusted today with nearly equal sized pupils most of the time in both eyes. My right eye has a slightly larger pupil and at times is still larger than my left eye, but often more equal much of the time.

Also, after making more sense of why the fraudulent notes were generated as such, it had become clear to me this was set up to harass me on the way out after I canceled surgery. I always wondered why I received a call from a police officer leaving a message on my voice mail about messages I sent from the surgery center contact form over the weekend. It made no sense for this to occur on a Tuesday rather than Monday.



Name (First, Middle Initial, Last)

Ophthalmologist: Mark Sczepanski, M.D. Optometrists: Kristina Aikens, O.D. Thomas S. Dunham, O.D.

Terra Boettcher, O.D.

Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

## **Authorization to Release Protected Health Information**

Release Information To:  North Dakota Eye Clinic  1820 42nd St. South  Grand Forks, ND 58201
1820 42nd St. South
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Other (Specify facility or
individual, address and phone
Doug West
Grand Forks NDS8201
CORDS
pelow
Comments:
Date: 12130121
Toll Free: 800-333-7344

www.northdakotaeyeclinic.com

## Re: Additional Records Request

From: Rebecca S

To: Doug West

Date: Tue, 11 Jan 2022 16:59:31 +0000 (01/11/2022 10:59:31 AM)

Hello Doug,

After researching your account, I found that we have sent you all information that we have on file.

#### Becca

Call Center (701) 775-3151



From: Doug West

Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 2:12 PM

To: Rebecca S

Subject: Additional Records Request

Last Thursday I received additional records and notes from you in the mail via USPS and I did not request them, but thank you for sending them.

Upon my first appointment your clinic was handed two critical documents from me, staff copied and filed them, and handed the documents back to me which were letters from Allergy Associates in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and another from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

They were a little curled and worn, so please send me copies of those two letters I provided to you upon my first and last eye appointment. If they show up to me all clear and new looking, they won't be the ones I handed to your staff, they would be from the web or some other place as I carried those worn documents around to every store I entered for a long period of time.

You can mail copies of those letters to me at 908 Sunset Drive, Grand Forks, ND, 58201.

Thank You, Doug West



01/04/2022 US POSTAGE \$000.932

ZIP 58102 011E12650123

Grand Forks, ND 58201 Douglas West 908 Sunset Dr



1820 S. 42nd Street • Grand Forks, ND 58201

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ZIP 58102 011E12650127

Grand Forks, ND 58201 Douglas West 908 Sunset Dr

Patient WEST,	Douglas			North Dakota Eye Clinic	Provider Mark	Sczepans	ski, MD
Account	Birthdate	Age	58M	1820 42nd Street South		Phone 701-	775-3151
33 33				Grand Forks, ND 58201		Fax 701-	775-3153
Referring Doctor					Service Date	09/15/21	Page 1

#### Problem List

Date: 09/15/21 Age Of Onset: Provider: MS ICD9: ICD10: SNOMED CT: 137982008 Non-smoker (& [never smoked tobacco]) (finding) Location: Status: Active Health Status: Comments: Tobacco Use

Date: 09/15/21 Age Of Onset: Provider: MS ICD9: ICD10: H25.11 Age-related nuclear cataract, right eye SNOMED CT: 359766000 Nuclear scierotic cataract (disorder) Location: OD Status: Active Health Status: Comments: Unilateral

Date: 09/15/21 Age Of Onset: Provider: MS ICD9: ICD10: H25.041 Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye SNOMED CT: 5318001 Posterior subcapsular polar senile cataract (disorder) Location: OD Status: Active Health Status: Comments: Unilateral

Date: 09/15/21 Age Of Onset: Provider: MS ICD9: ICD10: H25.12 Age-related nuclear cataract, left eye SNOMED CT: 373414000 Nuclear scienosis Location: OS Status: Active Health Status: Comments: NSC observe

#### Chief Complaint

Douglas West 58 year old male presents for evaluation for decreased vision to Right eye Referred by Dr. Coles.

HPI	Documented by Dr. S	czepanski 09/15/202	1	-
Location	Right eye			
Quality	No Pain vision decrease both distance and near			
Timing	The symptoms began gradually			
Context	Occur When on the computer			
Modifying Factors	Exacerbated by: glare at night off headlights. Will t	try not to drive at night		
Associated Signs	The symptoms are associated with blurred vision			
Other HPI	Denies using lubricating eye drops.			
Osulas History	Changed Reviewed KT 09/15/2021	Hedical	Family	The state of the last

Ocular H	listory	THE PARTY	Changed	Reviewed KT 09/15/2021	Medical	Family	Name and Address of the
Timeline	Type	Location	History			Status	Entered
	Iliness		Catara	t		Active	KT 09/15/21
2021/09/15	Trauma		no kno	wn ocular trauma		Active	KT 09/15/21
2021/09/15	Procedure		No kno	wn ocular procedures		Active	KT 09/15/21
2021/09/15	Family			5009 — No family history of clinical findin noted.	ng / No ocular family	Active	KT 09/15/21
Medical	History	54.66	Changed	Reviewed KT 09/15/2021	Medical	Family	PRINCE 10
Timeline	Туре	Location	History	,		Status	Entered
2021/09/15	Trauma		No kno	wn traumas noted		Active	KT 09/15/21

	Smoking		Forme	r smoker. / 8517006		Active	KT 09/15/21
Timeline	Туре	Location	History	,		Status	Entered
Social H	listory		Changed	Reviewed KT 09/15/2021	Medical	Family	N. A. S.
	Iliness		Chroni	c Fatigue Syndrome		Active	KT 09/15/21
2021/09/15	Family		16049	6001 Adopted / Adopted		Active	KT 09/15/21
2021/09/15	Procedure		No kno	own procedures noted		Active	KT 09/15/21
warming and			200000000000000000000000000000000000000				

#### *Immunizations*

Immunizations NO, patient has not had their yearly immunizations, advised to follow-up with their primary care provider.

Current	Dau	lar M	Inde
Current	Ocui	ar IV	reus

No Meds Reviewed by KT 09/15/2021

#### **Current Systemic Meds**

No Meds Reviewed by KT 09/15/2021

#### Medication History

No Meds Reviewed by KT 09/15/2021

#### Allergies

Patient WEST, Douglas

No Known Drug Allergy

Visual Acuity Dominant: Eye Hand

WEST, Douglas 09/15/21 Printed Date 09-17-21

Method Snellen

Type Visual Acuity

OD ccDva 20/400 ccNva 20/800 +1 os ccDva 20/20 -2 ccNva 20/20

OU

Refractions

Final Rx OD Rx +1.00 +0.75 x 060 Add +2.00

Dva 20/400

OS Rx +1.25 +1.25 x 180 Add +2.00 Dva 20/20

Manifest

OD Rx +1.00 +0.75 x 060

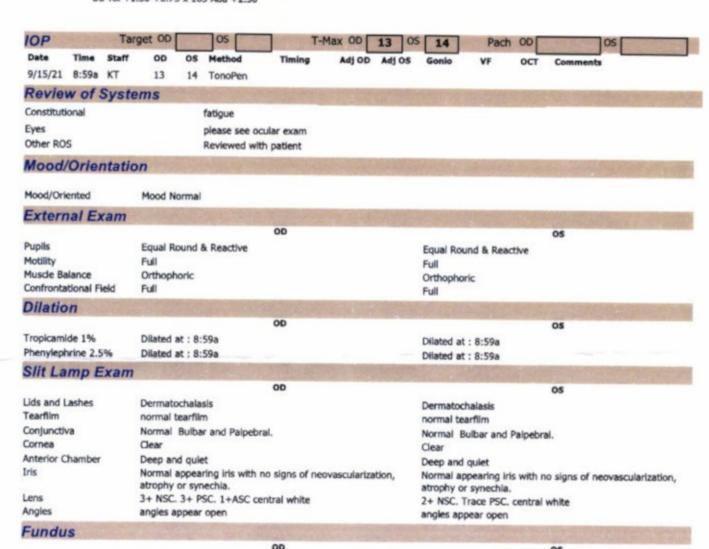
Dva 20/400

OS Rx +1.25 +1.25 x 180 Dva 20/20

Wearing

OD Rx +1.00 +0.75 x 060 Add +2.50

OS Rx +1.50 +0.75 x 165 Add +2.50



Dilation

Macula

Optic Discs

Cup to Discs

0.1

warned against driving.

poor detail seen

appearing nerve fiber layer.

Dilated retinal examination was performed. The patient was

Normal appearing optic nerve with healthy pink rim and normal Normal appearing optic nerve with healthy pink rim and

05

Dilated retinal examination was performed. The patient was

warned against driving.

normal appearing nerve fiber layer.

Normal Color and Contour for Age

Vessels

vessels are of normal caliber without arterio-venous nicking or vessels are of normal caliber without arterio-venous nicking significant tortuosity or significant tortuosity

Periphery Vitreous

Attached 360 Degrees, No Holes or Tears. Vitreous Normal and Clear for Age, No PVD

Attached 360 Degrees, No Holes or Tears. Vitreous Normal and Clear for Age, No PVD

#### Impression

Seq ICD9	Diagnosis	SNOMEDCT	ICD10	Location	Provider	Status	Comments
		137982008 Non-smoker (& [never smoked tobacco]) (finding)			MS	Active	Tobacco Use
		359766000 — Nuclear scierotic cataract (disorder)	H25.11 — Age-related nuclear cataract, right eye	OD	MS	Active	Unilateral
		5318001 — Posterior subcapsular polar senile cataract (disorder)	H25.041 — Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye	OD	MS	Active	Unilateral
		373414000 Nuclear scierosis	H25.12 Age-related nuclear cataract, left eye	os	MS	Active	NSC observe

#### Plan

09/15/21 Nuclear sclerotic and Posterior cataract, right eye>left eye. The patient was described the risks, benefits, and options of treatment including cataract surgery or observation. The patient is significantly bothered by decreased vision and glare from the cataract and would like to proceed with basic cataract surgery to the right eye. This will be performed soon under topical anesthesia. Intraocular lens calculations will be performed with an aim of plano refraction.

Comng Dr Coles Will follow cataract OS for now

#### Ocular Medications

No Meds

#### Order Quicklist

IOL Master OD.

#### **Orders**

09/15/21 Order# 66296 IOL MS

#### Handouts

	410				
Date	Handout	Staff	Provider	Education	Comments
9/15/21	Cataract	MS	MS		
9/15/21	Cataract	MS	MS		
9/15/21	Cataract	MS	MS		

Mark Sczepanski, MD 09-15-2021 09:26 AM

Scribed by Nicole Hinze

DOCUMENT SIGNED ELECTRONICALLY BY: Mark Sczepanski, MD 09-15-2021 09:26 AM



## **Pre-Surgical Cataract Patient Questionnaire**

Patient: Douglas West Date of Birth:	:_
Eye(s) being evaluated (circle one) Right eye Left eye	Both eyes
Visual Functioning	
Do you have difficulty, even with glasses, with the following activities:	(circle one)
<ol> <li>Reading small print, such as labels on medicine bottles, telephone books, or food labels?</li> </ol>	YES NO
2. Reading a newspaper or book?	YES NO
<ol><li>Reading a large-print book, large-print newspaper, or large numbers on a telephone?</li></ol>	YES NO
4. Recognizing people when they are close to you?	YES NO
5. Seeing steps, stairs or curbs?	YES NO
6. Reading traffic signs, street signs or store signs?	YES NO
7. Doing fine handiwork like sewing/knitting or carpentry?	YES NO
8. Writing checks or filling out forms?	YES NO
9. Playing games such as bingo or card games?	YES NO
10. Taking part in sports like bowling, tennis or golf?	YES NO
11. Cooking?	YES NO
12. Watching television?	YES NO

Continued on reverse side ▶

Staff: NH Date: 9/21/21 12:06p

	Symptoms	
Have	e you been bothered by: (circ	cle one)
1.	Poor night vision? YES	NO
2.	Seeing rings or halos around lights?	NO
3.	Glare caused by headlights or bright sunlight?	NO
4.	Hazy and/or blurry vision?	NO NO
5.	Seeing well in poor or dim light?	NO
6.	Poor color vision? YES	S NO
7.	Double vision? YES	NO
	Driving	
	a. How much difficulty do you have <u>driving during the day</u> because of your vis   circle one: None A little Some A lot  b. How much difficulty do you have <u>driving at night</u> because of your vision?  circle one: None A little Some A lot	parteanti.
	Cataract surgery is an option if you want to improve your vision.  tronger glasses won't improve your vision anymore and the only way to he tee better is cataract surgery, do you feel your vision problem is bad enouge consider cataract surgery now?  YES NO	
Patie	ent signature: Daughlast Date: 9-13	5-2
Phvs	sician signature: Date: 9-15.	2/

Staff: NH Date: 9/21/21 12:06p



Ophthalmologists:
Gerald N. Gaul, M.D.
Mark L. Sczepanski, M.D.
Optometrist:
Thomas S. Dunham, O.D.
Kristina L. Aikens, O.D.

## Authorization to Release Protected Health Information

	Douglas West	
Patient Name		Date of Birth

Release Information FROM:

Facility:
Phone #:

Release Information TO:

North Dakota Surgery Center 2600 47th Ave South Grand Forks, ND 58201

Phone: 701-734-4240 Fax: 701-757-1420

Information to be released:

Pre-operative physical / exam notes from the following appointment:

10/19/2021

2:15pm

Dr. Lommen

**Epic EMR Access** 

Date of upcoming surgery:

10/26/2021

Patient Signature (of/signature of authorized representative)

Date

Clear Forms

Staff: NH Date: 9/21/21 12:07p



### West, Douglas

PMS ID: Sex: DOB: MRN: Male

September 7, 2021

Mark Sczepanski, MD North Dakota Eye Clinic Grand Forks, ND 58201 Fax: (701) 775-3153 Appt. 9-15-21@8:30

Dear Mark Sczepanski,

I saw Douglas West on September 7, 2021 for his annual eye health exam.

My impression and plan were the following:

1. Posterior Subcapsular Cataract OU.

Start the following treatment(s): See Ophthalmology for cataract surgery OD.

- 2. Cataract, Nuclear OU.
- 3. Hyperopia OU.

Thank you for your care and expertise.

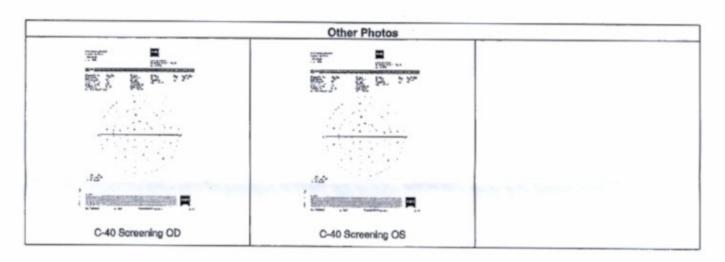
Regards,

Destin Coles, OD



## Hamrick, Shirley

PMS ID; Sex: DOB: MRN: 38041 Female 04/01/1938 3804



Electronically Signed By: Steven Gander, OD, 09/07/2021 11:52 AM CDT

Date: 9/21/21 12:08p

## West Douglas,

Calculation ID (CID): 4200 1/3/22 - 12:49 PM Page 1 of 1

Left eye

Template Standard

Phakic

LS900 Sep 15, 2021 - 1

Phakic

AL [mm] 22.89 CCT [µm] 583 AD [mm] 2.88 ACD [mm] 3.47 LT [mm] 3.87

7.70 / 43.81 @ 178 7.61 / 44.36 @ 88 R1[mm/D/\*]
R2[mm/D/\*] R [mm/D] 7.66 / 44.09 +AST [0/"] 0.55 @ 88 [] 1.3375 [mm] 12.15

Target Refraction: 0.00

IOL [D]	Eye [D]
22.00	0.65
22.50	0.30
23.00	-0.05
23.50	-0.41
24.00	-0.77

Barrett LF=1.94

MTA4UO AC IOL Alcon 7 | IOL [D] Eye [D] 18.50 0.73 19.00 0.33 19.50 -0.0820.00 -0.4920.50 -0.90

Barrett LF=0.07

IOL [D]	Eye [D]
22.50	0.37
23.00	0.04
23.50	-0.30
24.00	-0.63
24.50	-0.98

AcrySof MA60AC Alcon IOL [D] Eye [D] 22.00 0.73 22.50 0.38 23.00 0.03 23.50 -0.3224.00 -0.68Barrett LFwf 90

AL [mm	22.76
CCT [µm	592
AD [mm	2.52
ACD [mm	3.11
LT [mm	4.38

R1[mm/D/\*] R2[mm/D/\*] 7.67 / 44.03 @ 23 7.58 / 44.54 @ 113 R [mm/D] 7.62 / 44.28 0.51 @ 113 1.3375 +AST [0/"] [] 1.337 [mm] 11.78

Ta	rget Refr	raction: (	0.00
Cla	areon CN	A0T0	
Alo	IOL [D]	Eye [D]	

IOL [D]	Eye [D]
22.00	0.71
22.50	0.36
23.00	0.01
23.50	-0.35
24.00	-0.71

MTA4UO AC IOL Alcon

2L	IOL [D]	Eye [D]
	18.50	0.78
	19.00	0.38
	19.50	-0.03
	20.00	-0.44
	20.50	-0.85
Be	errett -0.07	

Clareon CNA0T0 Alcon Eye [D] 22.50 0.42 23.00 0.09 23.50 -0.2424.00 -0.5824.50 -0.92

HIII RBF A=119.10 Eye parame

crySof MA	60AC
IOL [D]	Eye [D]
22.00	0.79
22.50	0.44
23.00	0.09
23,50	-0.27
24.00	-0.63

Barrett LF=1.99

OL

EyeSuite™ IOL, V4.2.1 SID: 20875



Patient: Douglas J. West

908 Sunset Dr
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Assessment

Types
Misc. Notes
Progress

Notes
9/15/21 Chart note faxed to Dr. Coles. kmt

Date 10/22/21 2:57 pm Patient: Douglas J. West DOB: Age 58 M 908 Sunset Dr Grand Forks, ND 58201 Assessment Types Misc. Notes Progress Notes Patient called here and the NDSC with concerns regarding his pre op physical with Dr. Lommen and his upcoming surgery. He states that he has chronic fatigue syndrome and asthma and can not wear a mask or have a drape covering his face at any time. NDSC informed him that he would need to wear a mask there and I told him that he would have to have a surgical drape over his face during surgery. He did not want to cancel or reschedule his surgery at this time. Dr. Sczepanski informed. kmt

Mark Sczepanski, MD

Date 10/25/21 12:53 pm Patient: Douglas J. West Age 58 M DOB: 908 Sunset Dr Grand Forks, ND 58201 Assessment Types Misc. Notes Progress Notes We have removed patient from tomorrow's surgery schedule. NDSC has made several attempts to reach him to provide him a check in time and further instructions. All calls to patient have gone unanswered and they are not able to leave a voice-mail. He has been cleared for surgery by Dr. Lommen on 10/19/2021, so the pre-op is valid for 60 days. jo Mark Sczepanski, MD

After requesting all records I received in the first envelope on the left, the eye exam only consisting of three pages. Roughly two days later in the envelope on the right with a torn edge, I received the eye exam again and nine additional pages, twelve pages in total. As previously mentioned, the last two notes are a complete and total fraud as I did not call anyone and mention a drape covering. I had never heard of a drape covering, the woman called me and I did not call her. This is also a rather short note for a phone conversation of a little more than one hour. She also said I did not want to cancel or reschedule surgery when I told her no surgery with a drape covering over my face and airway. All questions I had including an eye plan were not answered.

The last note claims there were several attempts to reach me to provide a check in time and further instructions when I had already canceled the previous Friday. I only received one call from the North Dakota Surgery Center, Monday, October 25th, 2021, not several and the note claims all calls have gone unanswered and they were not able to leave a voice mail. This facility for whatever reason after I had already canceled, called one time only and reached my voice mail which is clearly displayed in call duration, so this note is a total fraud. These were generated to harass me and cause law enforcement problems for me, likely because they knew I would go elsewhere and learn my eyes could be covered by insurance and that I would receive quality care, which I did. The next day, Tuesday, October 26th, 2021, this facility made a false police report and when the police officer called me, stated he left a message on my voice mail, which the note claims I did not have. My voice mail, call screening, and call logs are all kept via the provider and not at home. All of these features are left on continually and the only time I turn off the call screening is when I need a code from a bank or something like that and they cannot get through with the call screening turned on, otherwise it is always on. I will address this later in this document, with a repeat of these two fraudulent notes after I add the false police report, run sheet from the dispatch center, and call transcript.

North Dakota Eye Clinic exam records include things that are not true, do not make sense, and are not at all accurate. It seems Dr. Sczepanski and staff tend to write down whatever they want regardless of what was actually discussed or what was stated by a patient. The first page says I deny using lubricating drops, but I was never asked any such question. I do have chronic dry eye and before surgery elsewhere was a frequent eye rubber. Prior to this Dr. Coles, OD, or any other eye provider has never discussed lubricating drops with me of any kind, and I just suffered through the condition. Prior to my surgery elsewhere I was provided with Refresh Relieva drops and told to never rub my eyes, which is exactly what I do today and the drops are very helpful.

At the time of my eye exams with Opticare and the North Dakota Eye Clinic, I could still drive without difficulty during the day. My right eye had a subcapsular cataract which are often fast moving. At this time night driving was difficult as I told Dr. Sczepanski, that if I leave a friend's place after dark I take the "old man" way home down residential streets and that was all I said. No one ever advised me not to drive day or night and I did not say I would try not to drive at night as this was not discussed by Dr. Sczepanski at all.

Another thing on the first page of the eye exam is a section regarding immunizations, which seemed odd to me as I've never been asked anything like this at any eye clinic before, ever. I was asked by a young woman if my vaccinations were "up to date" which in my opinion was rather inappropriate as I was there for my eyes. Above that section it does say I have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, but Dr. Sczepanski's staff seems to be very unaware of this condition. When I had surgery later in Fargo, ND, staff was very aware of this and even asked specific questions about this prior to surgery. I explained to this young woman that I have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and was diagnosed with Asthma at the Mayo Clinic in 2001. This is the exact same thing I tell anyone regarding this for accuracy of health information and my own safety. Adverse reactions to shots and many breathing medications are prevalent and I am ineligible for things like this. This was relayed to the young woman while my two letters from the Mayo Clinic and Allergy Associates were being copied and handed back to me.

I informed the young woman of this and said that when diagnosed with Asthma at the Mayo Clinic in 2001, I received a pneumonia shot and was told to always get a flu shot, which I did through late 2004. Due to my illness I become dangerously ill from such shots and can no longer receive them, as adverse reactions can be serious and are in fact dangerous. I told her that was the last flu shot I was able to receive and I can no longer take the adverse reactions. This goes for medications, even antibiotics, so I stay with the basic and proven things as to avoid adverse reactions. Rather than say what is accurate and with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome just above this in the record, she said No and went on typing, saying nothing more to me than that. The record does not say the accurate information which is ineligible, but instead says No, patient has not had their yearly immunizations, advised to follow up with their primary care provider. No one advised me of any follow up with any primary care provider, nothing like this was ever said to me. Ineligible is the accurate information and this has already been worked out with through the Mayo Clinic and other providers as I cannot receive such injections.

On the second page of the eye exam under Fundus it says patient was advised against driving, but as stated earlier, no one anywhere ever, has ever told me not to drive other than after my two eye surgeries which were completed in Fargo, ND. These records tend to be filled with things such as "patient advised" and "counseled", when none of these things even occurred. As a patient I was rushed without any such advice given.

On the third page of the eye exam under Plan it says the patient was describe the risks, benefits, and options of treatment including cataract surgery or observation. The patient is significantly bothered by decreased vision and glare from the cataract and would like to proceed with basic cataract surgery to the right eye and that this will be performed soon. Not much about what is written here makes sense as I was told my right eye was legally blind, but when you cannot see from it you don't even need to be told that. The only risks mentioned to me by Dr. Sczepanski was that there are risks and the success rate is about 97%, nothing more regarding risks was relayed to me. I jokingly said the risk rate really isn't that high, when you have no vision anything is an improvement.

The so called benefits were not relayed to me whatsoever, as with an eye capsule entirely clouded over the benefit would obviously be that one could see again from the blinded eye. There were no options of treatment relayed to me either as the only option is to remove the lens and replace it with an IOL, which is a known fact. These types of cataracts are fast moving so any observation is not applicable. This is not a situation where the cataract can be observed for any period of time due to the fact a person would go blind during the observation period, so none of that makes sense. I obviously was bothered by decreased vision and glare and wanted to proceed with surgery, as that is the only solution other than going blind permanently. Dr. Sczepanski stated that surgery will be performed soon, but I was scheduled for six weeks from this time.

Dr. Sczepanski also referred to this as "basic cataract surgery" which also does not make sense as my right eye had become so severe it needed extra care. I am right now while working on this document developing a slight blur to my left eye so I may have to have it checked and see if I need a laser procedure on that eye as I did my right eye shortly after surgery. I'm not certain of what he means by basic cataract surgery but I do tend to think he meant simply performing surgery on only one eye using a standard and old IOL, rather than look at the options available today which is what I received, the latest and best monofocal IOL's with the results being 20/20 vision, with only the need for glasses at very close up range. I now have eyes much like I did at 30 years of age.

As mentioned earlier in this document, it was Dr. Sczepanski who informed me of not needing glasses after surgery, referring to this as "there is this thing where you don't need glasses", and I believe he meant newer multifocal IOL's. He then said it wasn't covered by insurance which turned out to be fraud, and I offered to pay for it myself when his assistant gave him a quick no nod. He did not discuss this further and just said we better not. When I asked why and is it because you don't want to perform surgery on my left eye without a need, he just replied again, we better not, we better not. My left eye also had significant glare but the capsule was not entirely clouded over. I always wondered why getting a new pair of eyes was something we better not do, and that concerned me for a matching pair of eyes. As it turned out I was in no condition to have surgery on only my right eye since it would have left me too far out of balance, so this was covered by insurance. I also did not want multifocal IOL's and with the newer enhanced and monofocal IOL's, my eyes came out fantastic on the latest monofocal.

Dr. Coles, OD, with Opticare, provided me with a mid range pair of glasses for things like sitting at a computer. This was to avoid a trifocal lens in my glasses and while they worked, I didn't use them often. I had to change glasses just for the mid range glasses and every time I did anything else, I couldn't see properly so I ended up looking close or far and up and down. With this worsening had I not ended up with cataracts, I was well overdue for a trifocal pair of glasses. After surgery on my right eye I realized how bad my left eye was, and I was very out of balance for one week. Colors looked different from each eye and to only perform surgery on one eye would have left me crippled in many ways. I was very concerned about one good eye and one trifocal eye.

Dr. Sczepanski stated surgery would be performed soon and I was scheduled for six weeks later. As also stated earlier I was never told anything about anesthesia and any questions I had shortly before surgery went unanswered. When I asked to meet with the anesthesiologist, Dr. Sczepanski, and Dr. Coles, I was told I doubt that's going to happen. With the oxygen apparatus for "everybody", as though no one is an individual, there was nothing left to do but cancel. To say soon does not even make sense.

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with increasing glare while driving at night, I drove to Fargo, ND, and picked up my new puppy as they are not easy to find in this area. I drove down the interstate and through construction zones, so that was my condition at that time when only the very end of August my right eye was clouded over. All my trips to Fargo for my eye care were traveled on Highway 81 as I could no longer withstand interstate speeds and cars passing me. In September of 2021 my day driving to appointments was still okay and night driving was becoming quite difficult already. While my eye was clouded over I could still see light through it and objects were blurred, but their location was still attainable. With that and my left eye I could drive during the day in town rather well.

By late in September of 2021 I purchased the patch to wear over my right eye, as glare was becoming worse and increasing rapidly, as these are fast moving cataracts. By mid October driving during the day was rather difficult and night driving barely possible, only driving down residential streets. I could no longer drive down a busy two or four lane street with traffic and headlights. By late October objects were very blurred and the definition of distance and their location was gone, as I had no depth perception left whatsoever. This proved to be true in my mid November eye exam in Fargo. It was now hard to tell a center line from a curb so I simply had to look forward and maintain a steadiness from side to side. Driving around a curved street with parked cars was very difficult so I just drove slowly in moments like that. I tended to only drive where I knew the course, or plotted my course ahead of time to make things easier for myself.

There was no soon in this as the fast moving subcapsular cataract was moving much sooner than the North Dakota Eye Clinic. I then purchase Can-c drops to help with blur and glare, which I did receive some benefit from and this helped me make it to Fargo in mid November for my first eye exam. This is how quickly my right eye had deteriorated from early and mid September. I plotted my course and used Highway 81 driving slowly until I arrived at the 42<sup>nd</sup> interstate ramp in north Fargo. I then turned right and went on the ramp so I could get on the interstate briefly. My depth perception at this time was non existent. When I went up that ramp I was terrified like a circus ride. I was in the air and traffic was below me, as I had not been on a ramp like this since July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

I could barely tell where my left turn was as there was another road coming onto the ramp just before my left turn and a truck was behind me. I made it and after my eye exam I went through Fargo on low traffic streets to visit my uncle in north Fargo. I am not one who loses direction and there is a compass on my dash, but when trying to get to Highway 81, I ended up in Minnesota and had to turn around, then made it home.

The North Dakota Eye Clinic sent me twelve pages of records with some documents sent to that facility by Opticare. While the North Dakota Eye Clinic denies having my two letters from the Mayo Clinic and Allergy Associates, Opticare did have them and mailed them to me upon request. This was critical information prior to surgery and anesthesia, which was provided to every facility involved in this process.

As also mentioned I was never informed of the intended IOL or IOL's for surgery and nothing about the lens was ever discussed with me. This is typically worked out with the patient and surgeon, as it is a very important part of the process. The eye exam with the North Dakota Eye Clinic and all records there show nothing of a selected IOL, nor was there any discussion of the numerous IOL options. When I did have surgery on both eyes covered by insurance, I selected the TECNIS Eyhance and my surgeon had the exact same pick, and the results have been fantastic in every way possible. The refusal to answer any questions, with statements made about the use of an oxygen apparatus on everybody, and no discussion of the IOL's or a plan for a functioning pair of eyes suggested to me this process was elitist, rather fascist, and extremely negligent.

It does appear three documents were sent from Opticare to the North Dakota Eye Clinic with the first being a letter, the second is a record for a Shirley Hamrick included into my records, and the third being an EyeSuite IOL calculation. Opticare appears to have sent Shirley Hamrick's record as my record to the North Dakota Eye Clinic, and that clinic mailed it to me upon my request for records. I am not Shirley Hamrick, not female, and I was not born on April 1st of 1938. I have also never seen Steven Gander, OD, nor ever spoke with him, as the only person I've seen at Opticare is Destin Coles, OD. I can only imagine the fears of stories a person learns of where the wrong size of IOL's were placed into an individual's eyes and they now need glasses. When another individual's records are sent from one facility to another as my records, I feel not only blessed, but very fortunate to have canceled surgery and went to a facility not calling me Shirley.

One thing I did observe in the EyeSuite IOL calculation by Dr. Coles is the mention of an AcrySof IOL, which I was never informed of by anyone. In all my reading on IOL's, the AcrySof monofocal IOL was the one I did not want at all. They are of an older design with blue light filtering, which I not only didn't want either, but does nothing to provide the best outcome of vision and the way in which I use my eyes. TECNIS IOL's have better night vision and the latest Eyhance, designed much like an enhanced, has much more in its design for anti glare, improved depth of focus, with fantastic vision at night and in dim lighting conditions. I could not imagine having an AcrySof lens on my right eye and a trifocal left eye with out of balance glasses, I would have been a cripple.

I also requested records from Opticare which were sent to me in a large envelope consisting of five pages. There was no EyeSuite IOL calculation included in this and Shirley Hamrick's information was absent. After that I requested information sent to Opticare from the North Dakota Eye Clinic. I made another request for medical related information. I had the year wrong as 2020 in that request when it was 2021.

# Additional Records Request

To: OPTICARE

Date: Mon, 10 Jan 2022 14:19:06 -0600

By records I received from the North Dakota Eye Clinc, it is indicated your clinic received records from the North Dakota Eye Clinic but you did not send those to me.

Please mail me via USPS all documents sent to you from the North Dakota Eye Clinic.

Doug West 908 Sunset Drive Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thank You, Doug West

## Medical Related Information Request

From: Doug West To: OPTICARE -

Date: Mon, 17 Jan 2022 13:30:54 - 0600

Thank you for sending me the records last week, sent to you by the North Dakota Eye Clinic. After my last eye exam in September of 2020, there was vital medical information provided to you by me personally along with similar medical history listed in my chart.

Please send me all documents in my chart related to medical conditions provided to you by me orally, in writing, or from any other medical provider. Much of this should include history related to asthma and other severe allergies.

You can mail these documents to me at my home address:

Doug West 908 Sunset Drive Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thank you and have a Happy Martin Luther King Day!









Douglas West 908 Sunset Dr. Grand Forks, No. (0185)

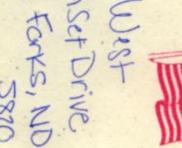
58201\$6854 CO76

Մոյիների հայտանականում և հայանի այսերի հայարի հ





Doug West Drive Grand Forks, ND 58201



Male

#### Medications **OPHTHALMIC MEDICATIONS** NONE

NON OPHTHALMIC MEDICATIONS

#### Ocular History Wears glasses: First Rx as a child

## **Ocular Surgery**

#### Social History

Occupation: Disabled Smoking status - Never smoker

#### Allergies

mold Other dust fragrences/smells

#### ROS

Provider reviewed on Sep 07, 2021

A focused review of systems was performed including Allergic / Immunologic, Cardiovascular, Endocrine, Eyes, Musculoskeletal, Neurological, and Psychiatric.

No Flashes Of Light, No Eye Pain, No Tearing, No Redness, No Jaw Pain, No Scalp Tendemess, No Loss Of Vision, No High Blood Pressure, No Headache, No Stroke, No Anxiety, No Depression, No. Diabetes, No Thyroid Abnormalities, And No Allergies.

#### Family History Other: Adopted: FHx unknown

#### Medical History Asthma

#### Surgical History None

#### Chief Complaint: Annual Eye Health Exam

HPI: This is a 58 year old male who is being seen for a chief complaint of annual eye health exam. Specifically, the patient presents for an exam for glasses and to monitor cataracts. The patient denies flashes of light, floaters, headaches, double vision, or dryness.

20/30 -1

NCC

None

J1+ -1

J1+ -1

NCC

#### Eye Exam

#### Wearing

OU

Glasses Eyeglass: Usage: Bifocal Eye Measurement

DCC OD +1.75 -0.75 x 152 N/A Add: +2.25 OS +2.25 -0.75 x 080 20/30 -2 Add: +2.25

**Auto Refraction** 

Auto Refraction Type: Non-Dilated AR; Binocular PD: 67.0 (Dist) Eye Measurement

OS +2.25 -1.25 x 068

#### Notes: Issues getting Auto-Refrac OU

#### Keratometry

	Fiat	Axis.	Steep	Axas	Mires Quality	Method
OD	43.75	179	44.25	089		Auto
os	44.00	009	44.25	099		Auto

200	ifest Refraction e: Bifocal		
Eye	Measurement	DCC	NCC
OD	+1.00 -0.75 x 152 Add: +2.25	20/400	J13
os	+1.75 -0.50 x 082 Add: +2.25	20/25	J1+
OU		20/25	J1+

#### Phorias - Distance

Test Method	Measured with	Hortz	Deviation
Von Graefe		2.00	Exo
Vertical OD	OD Base	Vertical OS	OS Base
		0.00	

#### Phorias - Near

Test Method	Measured with	Horiz	Deviation
Von Graefe		7.00	Exo
Vertical OD	OD Base	Vertical OS	OS Base
		0.00	

#### Relative Accommodation

	Blur	Recover
NRA	+2.50	
PRA		
Visual Aculty	Add	

	on			

	- maiorn exercisopera			-	
-1	Test	Relability	Distance	Near	1



PMS ID.	Sex	DOB:	MRN:
	Male		

	St	ereo F	ly		Good				800
Pup	ils: No	ormal							
	Light (mm)	Dark (mm)	Near (mm)	Size	Round	Regular	Reacts	APD	RAPD Other
OD		4.00		Normal	Round	Regular	Reacts Well	No APD	
os		4.00		Normal	Round	Regular	Reacts Well	No APD	
OP									
OD	13			Franchino	, Ashton		09/07/2021 CDT	10:31 AM	Icare tonometer Reliable
OD	13			Franchino	, Ashton		09/07/2021 CDT	10:31 AM	Icare tonometer Reliable
os	17			Franchino	, Ashton		09/07/2021 CDT	10:31 AM	Icare tonometer Reliable
os	17			Franchino	, Ashton		09/07/2021 CDT	10:31 AM	Icare tonometer Reliable

Motility: Full OU

Visual Field Test Type: Auto-Perimetry

Visual Field Test Result: Visual Field Normal

#### Exam:

An examination was performed

OD External: normal lid position, nasolacrimal and

orbital exam

OD Lid Margin: quiet and normal

OD Conjunctiva: white and quiet

Slit lamp examination OD:

OD Comea: clear comea

OD Anterior Chamber: deep and quiet anterior chamber

OD Iris: normal iris without rubeosis

OD ins. normal ins without rubeosis

OD Lens: 3+ PSC cataract and 2+ nuclear scierosis

Ophthalmoscopic examination of optic disc OD:

OD: CD ratio 0.3

OD Optic Disc: flat and normal disc

Ophthalmoscopic examination of retina and vessels

OD:

OD Vitreous: vitreous clear without hemorrhage, cells

or pigment

OS External: normal lid position, nasolacrimal and

orbital exam

OS Lid Margin: quiet and normal

OS Conjunctiva: white and quiet

Slit lamp examination OS:

OS Cornea: clear cornea

OS Anterior Chamber: deep and quiet anterior

chamber

OS Iris: normal iris without rubeosis

OS Lens: 1+ PSC cataract and 2+ nuclear

sclerosis

Ophthalmoscopic examination of optic disc OS:

OS: CD ratio 0.3

OS Optic Disc: flat and normal disc

Ophthalmoscopic examination of retina and

vessels OS:

OS Vitreous: vitreous clear without hemorrhage,

cells or pigment





PMS ID. Sex: DOB: MRN: Male

OD Vessels: vessels with normal contour, caliber without neovascularization

OD Macula: macula normal contour without heme, edema, drusen or exudate

OD Periphery: periphery normal appearance without retinal tears, breaks, holes or mass

General Appearance of the patient is well nourished.

Orientation: alert and oriented x 3.

Mood and affect: no acute distress.

OS Vessels: vessels with normal contour, caliber without neovascularization

OS Macula: macula normal contour without heme, edema, drusen or exudate

OS Periphery: periphery normal appearance without retinal tears, breaks, holes or mass

#### Impression/Plan:

 Posterior Subcapsular Cataract OU (H25.043)

#### Plan: Counseling - Posterior subcapsular cataract.

I counseled the patient regarding the following:

Eye Care: Posterior subcapsular cataracts do not require treatment unless they interfere with vision and impact one's activities of daily living, in which case cataract extraction with lens implant insertion should be performed.

Expectations: Posterior subcapsular cataracts are one type of cataract commonly found in patients with diabetes, chronic corticosteroid treatment, and previous ocular trauma. They typically cause problems with daytime and nighttime glare, along with reduced vision. These type cataracts can progress rapidly, over weeks to months, contrary to the other slower growing varieties of cataract.

Contact the office if: Progressive loss of vision, increasing glare, and problems with activities of daily living such as driving, reading, watching TV, seeing street signs, and following the golf ball occur.

#### Plan: Treatment Regimen.

Start the following treatment(s): See Ophthalmology for cataract surgery OD.

### 2. Cataract, Nuclear OU

(H25.13)

#### Plan: Counseling - Cataracts.

I counseled the patient regarding the following:

Eye Care: Cataracts do not require treatment unless they interfere with vision and impact one's activities of daily living, in which case cataract extraction with lens implant insertion should be performed.

Expectations: Cataracts occur in everyone as they age. Some specific cataracts like posterior subcapsular cataracts occur more commonly in diabetics, patients taking longterm steroid medications, and following trauma. The appropriate time to perform cataract surgery is when the loss of vision is interfering with your activities of daily living and a change in eyeglass prescription won't help.

Contact the office if: You experience progressive loss of vision, increasing glare, and problems with activities of daily living such as driving, reading, watching TV, seeing street signs, and following the golf ball.

Monitor cataract for now until we know how much is related to possible macular edema and also to the SPK on the central cornea secondary to dry eye.

#### Plan: F/U for Next Visit Cataract.

The patient should be scheduled for the following in 12 Months:

Exam: General Ophthalmic Exam.

## Hyperopia OU (H52.03)

#### Plan: Counseling - Hyperopia.

I counseled the patient regarding the following:





PMS ID Sex DOB: MRN: Male

Eye care: Hyperopia can be treated with corrective eye wear, such as contacts or eyeglasses. Refractive laser surgery approaches include PRK (photorefractive keratectomy), and LASIK (laser in situ keratomileusis) and LASEK. Expectations: Hyperopia or farsightedness is when distant objects can be seen clearly, but close objects do not come into focus. Hyperopia results if the eyeball is too short, or if there is too little curvature of the cornea. Contact Office if: Despite corrective therapy, you still have difficult viewing near objects, or develop headache or eye strain.

After counseling the patient, we decided on the following plan for the right eye: Glasses

After counseling the patient, we decided on the following plan for the left eye: Glasses

Plan: F/U for Next Visit Refractive.

The patient should be scheduled for the following in 12 Months:

- annual exam

Pian: Refraction.

Manifest Refraction was performed OU.

Indication: Hyperopia OU

GLASSE	GLASSES RX DETAILS									
	SPHERE	CYLINDER	AXIS	ADD	START	EXP. DATE				
OD	+1.00	-0.75	152	+2.25	09/07/21	09/07/23				
OS	+1.75	-0.50	082	+2.25	09/07/21	09/07/23				

VISU	AL ACUITY			
	Dist VA	Near VA	Dist PH	Underlying condition
OD	20/400	20/200		
os	20/25	20/20		
OU	20/25	20/20		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION						
OD						
OS						
OU						

Active

Yes

Usage

Bifocal

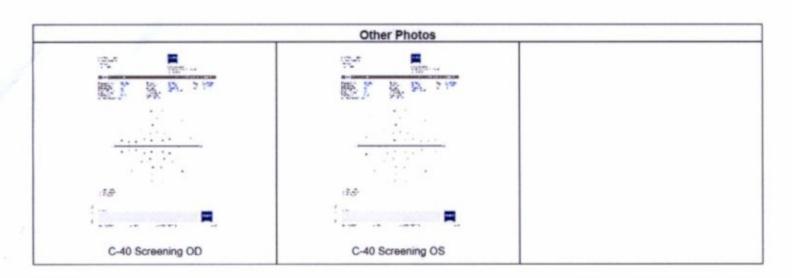
Staff:

Destin Coles, OD (Primary Provider) (Bill Under)

Ashton Franchino







Electronically Signed By: Destin Coles, OD, 09/21/2021 04:59 PM CDT

Patient WEST, Dauglas North Dakota Bys Office Provider Mark Sciepanski, MD 1820 42nd Street South Age SWH Phone 701-775-3151 Grand Forks, ND 58201 Fax 701-775-3153 Referring Doctor Service Date 09/15/21 Page 1

#### Problem List

Date: 09/15/21 Age Of Onset: Provider: MS ICD9: ICD10: SNOMED CT: 137982008 Non-smoker (& [never smoked tobacco]) (finding) Location: Status: Active Health Status: Comments: Tohacco I ke

Date: 09/15/21 Age Of Onset: Provider: MS ICD9: ICD10: H25.11 Age-related nuclear cataract, right eye SNOMED CT: 359766000 Nuclear sclerotic cataract (disorder) Location: OD Status: Active Health Status: Comments: Unilateral

Date: 09/15/21 Age Of Onset: Provider: MS ICD9: ICD10: H25.041 Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye SNOMED CT: 5318001 Posterior subcapsular polar senile cataract (disorder) Location: OD Status: Active Health Status: Comments: Unilateral

Date: 09/15/21 Age Of Onset: Provider: MS ICD9: ICD10: H25.12 Age-related nuclear cataract, left eye SNOMED CT: 373414000 Nuclear scierosis Location: OS Status: Active Health Status: Comments: NSC observe

#### Chief Complaint

Douglas West 58 year old male presents for evaluation for decreased vision to Right eye Referred by Dr. Coles.

HPI	Documented by Dr. 5 czeponskii 09/15/2021
Location	Right eye
Quality	No Pain vision decrease both distance and near
Timing	The symptoms began gradually
Context	Opening Without and the community

Modifying Factors Exacerbated by: glare at night off headlights. Will try not to drive at night

Associated Signs The symptoms are associated with blurred vision

Other HPI Denies using lubricating eye drops.

Timeline	Type	Location	History	Status	Entered
	Illness		Cataract	Active	KT 09/15/21
2021/09/15	Trauma		no known ocular trauma	Active	KT 09/15/21
021/09/15	Procedure		No known ocular procedures	Active	KT 09/15/21
2021/09/15	Family		160266009 No family history of clinical finding / No ocular family	Active	KT 09/15/21
			history noted.		
Medical	History		Changed Reviewed KT 09/15/2021 Hedical	Panily	
The state of the s	History Type	Location	MATERIAL SECTION AND AND ADDRESS OF A SECTION AND ADDRESS OF A SECTION ASSESSMENT AS	Family Status	Entered
Imeline		STREET, STREET	Changed Reviewed KT 09/15/2021 Hadical	Status	
fimeline 2021/09/15	Туре	STREET, STREET	Changed Reviewed KT 09/15/2021 Hedical History	Status Active	KT 09/15/21
Medical Fimeline 2021/09/15 2021/09/15 2021/09/15	Type Trauma	STREET, STREET	Changed Aeviewed KT 09/15/2021 Hedical History No known traumas noted	Status	

#### *Immunizations*

**Immunizations** 

NO, patient has not had their yearly immunizations, advised to follow-up with their primary care provider.

#### **Current Ocular Meds**

Type

Smoking

No Meds

Timeline

Reviewed by KT 09/15/2021

#### **Current Systemic Meds**

No Meds

Reviewed by KT 09/15/2021

#### Medication History

No Meds

Reviewed by KT 09/15/2021

#### Allergies

No Known Drug Allergy

Visual Acuity Dominant: Eye

Location

History

Former smoker. / 8517006

Status

ACTIVE

Entered

KT 09/15/21

09/15/21 Printed Date 09-17-21 Type Visual Acuity Method Snellen ccDva 20/400 ccNva 20/800 +1 os ccDva 20/20 -2 ccNva 20/20 ou Refractions Final Rx OD Rx +1.00 +0.75 x 060 Add +2.00 Dva 20/400 OS Rx +1.25 +1.25 x 180 Add +2.00 Dva 20/20 Manifest OD Rx +1.00 +0.75 x 060 Dva 20/400 OS Rx +1.25 +1.25 x 180 Dva 20/20 Wearing OD Rx +1.00 +0.75 x 060 Add +2.50 OS Rx +1.50 +0.75 x 165 Add +2.50 IOP Target OD OS T-Max OD 12 OS 14 Pach OD Date Time Staff Method Timing Adj OD Adj OS OCT 9/15/21 8:59a KT 14 TonoPen Review of Systems Constitutional fatigue Eyes please see ocular exam Other ROS Reviewed with patient Mood/Orientation Mood/Oriented Mood Normal External Exam OD 05 Pupils Equal Round & Reactive Equal Round & Reactive Motility Full **Full** Muscle Balance Orthophoric Orthophoric Confrontational Field **Full** Full Dilation 00 os Tropicamide 1% Dilated at: 8:59a Dilated at: 8:59a Phenylephrine 2.5% Dilated at: 8:59a Dilated at : 8:59a Slit Lamp Exam OD 08 Lids and Lashes Dermatochalasis Dermatochalasis Tearfilm normal tearfilm normal tearfilm Normal Bulbar and Palpebral. Conjunctiva Normal Bulbar and Palpebral. Clear Cornea Clear Anterior Chamber Deep and guiet Deep and quiet Iris Normal appearing iris with no signs of neovascularization, Normal appearing iris with no signs of neovascularization, atrophy or synechia. atrophy or synechia. 3+ NSC. 3+ PSC. 1+ASC central white Lens 2+ NSC, Trace PSC, central white Angles angles appear open angles appear open **Fundus** Dilation Dilated retinal examination was performed. The patient was Dilated retinal examination was performed. The patient was warned against driving.

warned against driving.

Normal appearing optic nerve with healthy pink rim and normal Normal appearing optic nerve with healthy pink rim and

normal appearing nerve fiber layer.

appearing nerve fiber layer. Cup to Discs 0.1

Macula poor detail seen

Normal Color and Contour for Age

or WEST, Decad

Optic Discs

WEST, Douglas Service Date 66/13/21 Vessels vessels are of normal caliber without arterio-venous nicking or vessels are of normal caliber without arterio-venous nicking significant tortuosity or significant tortuosity Periphery Attached 360 Degrees, No Holes or Tears. Attached 360 Degrees, No Holes or Tears. Vitreous Vitreous Normal and Clear for Age, No PVD Vitreous Normal and Clear for Age, No PVD Impression Seq ICD9 Diagnosis SNOMEDCT ICD10 Location Provider Status 137982008 -- Non-smoker (& MS Active Tobacco Use [never smoked tobacco]) (finding) 359766000 -- Nuclear H25.11 - Age-related nuclear OD MS Active Unilateral sclerotic cataract (disorder) cataract, right eye 5318001 -- Posterior H25.041 -- Posterior subcapsular OD MS Active Unilateral subcapsular polar senile polar age-related cataract, right cataract (disorder) eye 373414000 - Nuclear H25.12 -- Age-related nuclear OS MS Active NSC observe sclerosis cataract, left eye Plan

09/15/21 Nuclear scierotic and Posterior cataract, right eye>left eye. The patient was described the risks, benefits, and options of treatment including cataract surgery or observation. The patient is significantly bothered by decreased vision and glare from the cataract and would like to proceed with basic cataract surgery to the right eye. This will be performed soon under topical anesthesia. Intraocular lens calculations will be performed with an eim of plano refraction.

Comng Dr Coles Will follow cataract OS for now

#### Ocular Medications

No Meds

#### Order Quicklist

IOL Master OD.

#### Orders

09/15/21 Order# 66296 IOL MS

#### Handouts

Date	Handout	Staff	Provider	Education	Comments
9/15/21	Cataract	MS	MS		
9/15/21	Cataract	MS	MS		
9/15/21	Cataract	MS	MS		

Mark Sczepanski, MD 09-15-2021 09:26 AM

Scribed by Nicole Hinze



August 27, 2001

Mr. Douglas J. West Apartment 41 615 First Avenue South Grand Forks, ND 58201-4582 Mayo Clinic 200 First Street SW Rochester, Minnesota 55905 507-284-2511

Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

RE: Mr. Douglas J West MC#: DOB:

Dear Mr. West:

It was a pleasure to have participated in your recent evaluation in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

Our final diagnoses were:

· Asthma

· Pulmonary nodule

· Marginally abnormal stress test performed elsewhere

Attached is the clinical documentation which summarizes our impressions and recommendations (William Sanchez, M.D.: Aug-24-2001, Aug-23-2001; Udaya B. Prakash, M.D.: Aug-23-2001). I have also included the most recent laboratory results and pulmonary function test reports.

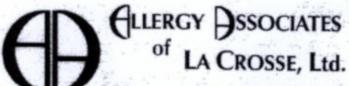
Once again, it was a pleasure to participate in your care. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the enclosed report.

Sincerely,

William Sanchez, M.D.

WS:kkt Enclosures

David L. Morris, M.D., FACAI, ABAI Ceorge F, Kroker, M.D., FACAI. Vijay K. Sabnis, M.D., ABP Mary S. Morris, M.D., ABIM



Offering comprehensive diagnostic and treatment options for the allergic patient...

May 17, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Douglas West 819 Lewis Blvd #4 Grand Forks, ND 58203

This is to state that Mr. Douglas West has consulted us for allergy evaluation. He has chronic nasal congestion, facial and eye pain, headaches, throat tightening spells, and choking attacks. Intradermal testing showed positive to several airborne inhalants such as dust, mite, pollen, mold spores, and dog dander. He also reacts to a variety of chemicals such as perfumes, scents, air fresheners, and disinfectants (Lysol and Pinesol etc). We have placed him on our immunotherapy program, but we also recommend that he have housing conditions that are free of dust, mold spores, volatile chemicals, and pollens. This will improve his medical condition.

Sincerely

Vijay K. Sabnis, MD

VKS:rlc

After receiving my eye exam records from Opticare in East Grand Forks, MN, it was obvious why they did not forward my eye exam to the facility I went to in Fargo, ND, and I did sign a release for this to be done. I then requested information Opticare received from the North Dakota Eye Clinic and they sent me the three pages from the eye exam at that facility. When I requested medical information regarding my health condition and breathing difficulties, Opticare did send the two letters from the Mayo Clinic and Allergy Associates, which I provided to the North Dakota Eye Clinic upon my one and only appointment there. As previously mentioned, I always have those documents with me where a mask requirement is in place. The North Dakota Eye Clinic later claimed to not have these two documents when they copied them and handed them back to me.

There are five pages from the eye exam performed at Opticare sent to me but they did not send the EyeSuite IOL calculation, which I did receive from the North Dakota Eye Clinic. On the first page of the eye exam documents it says things like no flashes of light and that I denied dryness. I was never asked anything like this and I have chronic dry eye, with my eyes often red and was never provided with a solution until I went to Fargo prior to my eye surgeries. Also, with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome light spots bother my eyes and over the summer I thought that was my night glare problem with headlights and things of that nature. It also says this was an exam for glasses and to monitor cataracts. As previously stated, one week prior to my appointment with Dr. Coles after it was already scheduled, I realized my right eye was entirely clouded over. At that point there really isn't anything to monitor and the only solution is lens removal surgery.

On the third and fourth pages of the eye exam there is mention of types of counseling that I've never heard of before nor seen until receiving the eye exam records, as there was no such counseling to the things Dr. Coles states in any way whatsoever. I was never told the type of cataract in my right eye being subcapsular or anything. Dr. Coles showed me a computer screen of my left eye, then my right eye which was clouded over, and that was all. He then said I will need surgery for this and said it was safe, and I asked him about other eye surgeries and he said lasik was also safe. From there we went out to the front desk where he told staff to schedule me and he left, and it was arranged as I previously described by staff without Dr. Coles being present. Anything learned about cataracts, surgery, and IOL's, I learned on my own before going to Fargo where my surgeries were performed, resulting in 20/20 vision, barely needing glasses.

I was never told to contact the office if certain things listed become worse as falsely stated in the eye exam. I was awaiting surgery and could not see from my right eye so things were already beyond what is stated there, so none of that makes sense. It says contact the office if you experience progressive loss of vision, increasing glare, and problems with activities of daily living such as driving, reading, watching TV, seeing street signs, and following the golf ball occur. Well, I don't go golfing and do not own golf clubs, so that does not really make any sense as this is something falsely stated in the records that I had never heard of nor was told by Dr. Coles. Even if I were a golfer, at this time my right eye was entirely clouded over, so again, that makes no sense.

Dr. Coles also never informed me of a cataract on my left eye. As previously stated, it was at my eye exam with Dr. Sczepanski with the North Dakota Eye Clinic that he asked me if Dr. Coles told me about my left eye cataract and I was not aware of this, during the time he also told me about this thing where I did not need glasses. He then said we better not and was only intending on surgery for my right eye. There was never any so called counseling by Dr. Coles about when cataract surgery is performed nor did we ever discuss glasses for both my right and left eye. When reading the records this was new information to me I had never heard of before.

What is odd about this as well as Dr. Coles referred me to Dr. Sczepanski who tends to advertise lasik for people who no longer need glasses to fly an airplane. He also has similar advertising about cataract surgery and how people get to follow up with him right here at home. The only follow up I was scheduled for was a next day visit with Dr. Coles and that was all. It also makes no sense to claim there was a plan for glasses at all due to the fact I barely use glasses today. I can sit at a computer with or without glasses as my lenses are now free of prescription with only a small magnification in the bifocal area for small print that is in the close range.

Also mentioned earlier was my overdue need for trifocal glasses rather than bifocals, as in 2015 it was Dr. Coles who provided me with a mid range pair of glasses. These were for things like sitting at a computer only and for avoiding trifocal lenses in everyday use and activity. This was not all too effective since everything outside of a computer screen area was blurred and the glasses were hard to wear if I left a computer. Over time I was looking far or close for everything as I had no mid point in my glasses. After a number of years I just tuned things out in the mid range and basically had no mid point vision.

Two things about my adjustment difficulties to my new IOL's are that I was very out of balance due to my right eye being entirely clouded over, so that was hard to get used to and I needed a laser procedure for immediate regrowth around my IOL lens capsule, which required another adjustment period. The other factor was that for years I had no mid range in my vision and after new IOL's I could see everything far, mid, and close up, so the amount of vision was overwhelming as I could now see everything on a counter including type on envelopes and anything else without glasses.

My condition was clearly not one where it was probable nor possible to only perform surgery on my right eye, as it would have left me too far out of balance. For one week until my left eye surgery, colors were bright and clear through my right eye and very yellow and brown, dull actually, through my left eye. I had two eyes with very different vision until surgery on my left eye was completed. This was also covered by insurance when Dr. Sczepanski told me it was not covered. I only paid the out of pocket expense for my IOL's and ended up with fantastic focus with a synchronized pair of eyes, as eyes work in a pair and if not, it should be the goal of any O.D. and Ophthalmologist to make that happen in any way possible. I now have excellent binocular vision and read charts at 20/20, so nothing about Dr. Coles counseling makes sense, nor did it even occur.

Dr. Coles claimed after counseling me as his patient, that we decided on the plan being glasses for both my right eye and my left eye. There was no such discussion on this whatsoever and that false claim also does not make any sense. We left an exam room and went to the front counter where he had staff schedule me with Dr. Sczepanski with the North Dakota Eye Clinic for surgery, as glasses were never discussed. This is fraud and nothing else would make sense otherwise, as today I barely need glasses.

To perform surgery on only my right eye using an outdated AcrySof monfocal lens is not even a functional approach. The out of pocket cost of this lens is \$200 and compared to the new Eyhance monofocal lens I would not have ended up with 20/20 vision in my right eye. At that point I would have needed a trifocal lens on my glasses for my left eye and this would have left me unable to function properly in most daily activities. I would have still needed a prescription with glasses for my right eye using that outdated IOL, but it would still have been far different from my left eye prescription. I would have been seeing colors differently from each eye as well. This would have left me more or less crippled and very dependent on constant updated glasses with many appointments for not only glasses, but the monitoring of my left eye cataract, all while suffering bad vison.

The cost of this plan Dr. Coles and Dr. Sczepanski had rather than the appropriate plan for my condition would have cost far more than my eye surgeries I did have, all while suffering along the way and never attaining 20/20 vision as well. This would have been to their benefit in that I would need more monitoring of cataracts, more frequent eye exams, and new prescription glasses that would have been out of balance for a pair of functioning eyes with binocular vision. This would not have been to my benefit in any manner whatsoever, but only to my detriment at a very high cost financially.

General claims for the new Eyhance IOL is clear distance vision, likely binocular 20/20 vision, pulling a close up range to see a person's face clearly when sitting across a dinner table from them. To not over promise the results this is the general claim and you may obviously need glasses for the slight close up range. A person may end up a little worse or better off than that, and I came out like a miracle with almost no need for glasses at all and seeing rather small type in the close range. My glasses only help that when I either need help or enjoy making little things easier, but glasses are not required for me now. I ended up with results of a fully enhanced IOL costing much more. The cost was never an issue either as I was prepared to spend any amount for the right pair of eyes, the best thing for me and the Eyhance was just that, but for both eyes as well.

Out of pocket cost for the Eyhance IOL is \$499, so for \$998 I obtained binocular vision with 20/20 chart reads, only needing glasses for very small type. Not only to my quality of life benefit, but also financial benefit, this plan in every way makes nothing but sense rather than to pay \$200 for an older IOL only for one eye, then carry on suffering and constantly needing glasses with appointments for eye exams and cataract monitoring as Dr. Coles described in the plan I never heard of until reading his records. It is far less expensive to replace my lenses with Eyhance IOL's once with fantastic results.

This was clearly attempted fraud for financial gain while leaving a patient out of balance and basically crippled, suffering the horrible outcome of a financial scam to keep me in glasses. Surgery was necessary and required for both eyes, not one eye, and was an opportunity to no longer require glasses. While I purchased a pair of glasses from Eyemart Express, updated after surgery for free as their service was excellent, I keep those glasses downstairs in my computer room which I call my command center.

I purchased a pair of Oakley glasses after surgery as well with anti glare for any other outdoor or every day use. My computer screens downstairs are all LG Flatron's which are a matte finish so glasses without anti glare do just fine. Near common daylight or the sun, my glasses with anti glare are better. I have not used them too much yet as I really don't need glasses, but when I do they help and were recommended for my eye care as well. I am most often in my Oakley polarized sunglasses during my adjustment period almost anytime I am outside and driving. I wear them in stores as well with bright lights and white ceilings, which I hope over time I will not need in places like that but for now it is a requirement. I never though I would be one to use expensive shades but they are not like any normal or average darkening glasses, they are extremely effective.

In time I am hoping my anti glare glasses will be all I need at a store if that, or even while driving but I love my polarized sunglasses. They do make things very easy for me and the only time I wear inexpensive darkening glasses is during snow removal or wet times where I can get by, because they are easy to just wipe water spots off from. With my Oakley sunglasses I only use the required cloth and spray to clean them and I did purchase a backup pair in case anything happens to them, even though I am a very careful person. My eye protection is an important part of the professional eye plan I received from facilities that were not intended on scamming me for financial gain, but intended on fitting me with what was best for me. I will purchase some safety goggles soon as well for anything like changing oil, or such things like sharpening a lawn mower blade. These are things I cannot do now without eye protection. While everyone should have eye protection for such things. I am not one who can take a chance at all. When under a vehicle there are times when wiping off oil or grease, even with glasses on, where a dirty chunk of grease falls off and ends up in my eye. While not pleasant, that was something I could blink or rub out in the past. Today that is not something I can risk in any manner whatsoever as I cannot afford to have an IOL tear off or suffer any other difficulty. These are all things I discussed with staff at the facilities that took care of me and is all part of a very professional plan. As stated earlier, I was given lubricating drops and told not to rub my eyes prior to surgery as it wears away zonlues, which are needed for IOL's to heal in well. I also cannot and do not rub my eyes anymore at all.

Dr. Sczepanski never informed me of anything like this and was very short with me as though such things did not matter or were not important. Dr. Coles never informed me of anything like this as well and his claimed counseling and plan in records were not things ever discussed with me. I believe when canceling surgery, Dr. Sczepanski knew I would have to go elsewhere and would then learn of all these things, which he did not want.

From the point of my canceling surgery, a fraudulent medical note was generated from the North Dakota Eye Clinic by a KMT, the woman who called me and talked for more than one hour. This is also the woman on my eye exam with Dr. Sczepanski initialed as KT, and this note was digitally signed by Dr. Sczepanski. This was done on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, before the weekend. Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a fraudulent note was generated from the North Dakota Surgery Center where Dr. Sczepanski performs surgeries with a JO initialed on the note, digitally signed by Dr. Sczepanski. The day after that, Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, while on the telephone with a friend, I received a call from a police officer with a last name of Fuka, who mispronounced his name as Fooko when leaving a voice mail. His name is not pronounced as Fooka or Fooko, but Fuka, which seemed odd and at the time I was in no condition to look into this, as my priorities were getting to a facility soon before I lost vision in my right eye permanently, not to mention at this time I was blind in my right eye, far worse than six weeks earlier.

After my surgeries I did obtain a police report which was shocking and entirely false, so after that I requested information from the dispatch center. I then received a run sheet while waiting for the transcript of the call made from the North Dakota Surgery Center, which I also, on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, went downtown and listened to the actual audio of the call. The call and police report were made by Kristen Vik, Administrator of the North Dakota Surgery Center and are entirely false in every way. On the police report Ms. Vik's first name was spelled Kristn, and not Kristen. This information will be displayed later in this document, not in the order in which I obtained them, but in the order of which they took place. I will then again display the two fraudulent notes along with call logs of my two telephones which are kept and recorded by the provider.

I had one other records request for what was sent from Dr. Lommen to the North Dakota Surgery Center. I was told they did not use oxygen like a respirator nor place a tube down your throat, which turned out not to be true as I was told at the last minute the surgery center uses an oxygen apparatus on everybody, which has nothing to do with a cataract surgery, as many of these are done while people are awake. Another concern I had was if prescription drug information for a different Doug West had been sent there, as this has been a past problem. When sending a message via contact form to the North Dakota Surgery Center, you have no idea who receives them. My requests for the information were denied and the individual who responded was Kristen Vik, the woman who made the false police report. At the time of these requests I had already obtained the police report, but not the dispatch information, which was far more shocking than the false police report itself. I could not believe I had to deal with a person who had made a false report against me, but it was a request I needed to make and was denied.

During the time of my recovery I did some looking into Dr. Sczepanski and when I obtained the name of Kristen Vik, I did much of the same thing. As elitist, fascist, and secretive these facilities were along with the fact I received two fraudulent and false medical notes, I was not all that surprised. Both Sczepanski and Vik received DUI convictions while in medical and nursing school less than two months apart.

Skip to Main Content Logout My Account Search Menu New Criminal Search Refine Search Back

Location : State of North Dakota Help

## REGISTER OF ACTIONS CASE No. 81-92-K-02961

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA VS. MARK LEE SCZEPANSKI

Case Type: Misdemeanor Date Filed: 09/21/1992

Location: -- Grand Forks County

PARTY INFORMATION

Attorneys

Defendant Sczepanski, Mark Lee

GRAND FORKS, ND 58201

DOB: 1968 SSN: XXX-XX-1188

Plaintiff State of North Dakota

Albert Frederick Amason 701-775-0654 x0000(W)

CHARGE INFORMATION

 Charges: Sczepanski, Mark Lee
 Citation
 Statute
 Level
 Date

 1. D/U INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL
 000 1035966
 39-08-01
 Converted Degree
 09/20/1992

EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT

DISPOSITIONS

10/22/1992 Disposition

1. D/U INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL

Pled Guilty

10/22/1992 Plea (Judicial Officer: Judge, Conversion)

1. D/U INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL

Guilty

10/22/1992 Criminal Judgment (Judicial Officer: Metelmann, Thomas K)

1. D/U INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL 09/20/1992 (CONV) 39-08-01 (390801)

Converted Disposition:

Confinement:

Agency: Grand Forks County Correctional Center, Term: 0 Year, 0 Month, 10 Days

Report on: October 22, 1992

Suspended: 0 Year, 0 Month, 10 Days0 Year, 0 Month, 0 Day

Condition - Adult

Obtain an Evaluation, 735 OBTAIN AN EVALUATION 10/22/1992 - 11/22/1992, Satisfied 11/16/1992

Condition - Adult

1. Violate No Criminal Laws, 765 VIOLATE NO CRIMINAL LAWS 10/22/1992, Satisfied 10/22/1992

Condition - Adult

1. Set up Payment Schedule, SET UP PAYMENT SCHEDULE PayPeriod - M PayAmount - 375.00 Start Date - 10/22/1992 Enter Date -

10/22/1992 10/22/1992, Active 10/22/1992

Fee Totals:

 Fine/State
 \$300.00

 Court Administration
 \$75.00

 Fee
 \$375.00

OTHER EVENTS AND HEARINGS

09/21/1992 Converted Event Codes Index #1

()01 CITATION

09/21/1992 Converted Event Codes Index # 2

()02 \$300 SB

10/22/1992 Converted Event Codes Index # 3

() 03 JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION

10/22/1992 Initial Appearance (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer Kleven, Debbie)

UCIS Hrg Desc: FIRST APPEARANCE

12/21/2006 Pursuant to Administrative Rule 19 Documents Destroyed Index #4

PURSUANT TO RULE 19 OF ADMIN RULES THIS RECORD WAS DESTROYED

1 of 2 12/31/21, 7:27 AM

		FINANCIA	1. Information	
	Defendant Sczepanski, M	Mark Lee		
	Total Financial Assessme	nt		375.00
	Total Payments and Cred	its		375.00
	Balance Due as of 12/31	/2021		0.00
10/22/1992	Transaction Assessment			375.00
10/22/1992	Counter Payment	Receipt # 81-18149	SCZEPANSKI, MARK LEE	(375.00)

2 of 2 12/31/21, 7:27 AM

Location : State of North Dakota Help

Skip to Main Content Logout My Account Search Menu New Criminal Search Refine Search

Back

REGISTER OF ACTIONS CASE No. 81-92-K-03791

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA VS. KRISTEN LEA ERICKSON

§ Case Type: Misdemeanor Date Filed: 12/07/1992

§ § § ş

Location: -- Grand Forks County

PARTY INFORMATION

Attorneys

Defendant Erickson, Kristen Lea

DOB: 1970 GRAND FORKS, ND 58201

SSN: XXX-XX-1173

Plaintiff State of North Dakota A. Frederick Arnason

701-775-0654 x0000(W)

CHARGE INFORMATION

Charges: Erickson, Kristen Lea Citation Statute Level Date

1. D/U INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL 0001046856 39-08-01 Converted Degree 12/05/1992

#### EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT

#### DISPOSITIONS

12/23/1992 Disposition

1. D/U INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL

Pled Guilty

12/23/1992 Plea (Judicial Officer: Judge, Conversion)

1. D/U INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL

12/23/1992 Criminal Judgment (Judicial Officer: Kleven, Debbie)

1. D/U INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL 12/05/1992 (CONV) 39-08-01 (390801)

Converted Disposition:

Confinement:

Agency: Grand Forks County Correctional Center, Term: 0 Year, 0 Month, 10 Days

Report on: December 23, 1992

Suspended: 0 Year, 0 Month, 10 Days0 Year, 0 Month, 0 Day

Condition - Adult:

Obtain an Evaluation, 735 OBTAIN AN EVALUATION 12/23/1992 - 01/23/1993, Satisfied 01/05/1993

Condition - Adult:

Violate No Criminal Laws, 765 VIOLATE NO CRIMINAL LAWS 12/23/1992 - 12/23/1993, Satisfied 12/23/1992

 Set up Payment Schedule, SET UP PAYMENT SCHEDULE PayPeriod - M PayAmount - 375.00 Start Date - 12/23/1992 12/23/1992 12/23/1992, Active 12/23/1992

Fee Totals:

Fine/State \$250.00 Court Administration \$125.00 Fee \$375.00 Fee Totals \$

Comment (BOND IS HEREBY DISCHARGED.)

1 of 2 1/11/22, 7:07 PM

37.000 (0.000)	OTHER EVENTS AND HEARINGS
12/09/1992	Initial Appearance (9:30 AM) (Judicial Officer Kleven, Debbie)
	UCIS Hrg Desc: FIRST APPEARANCE
12/18/1992	Sentencing (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer Kleven, Debbie)
12/23/1992	Converted Event Codes Index # 1
51-907-907-905-70-9	() 01 CITATION
12/23/1992	Converted Event Codes Index # 2
2 2	() 02 JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION
12/23/1992	Sentencing (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer Kleven, Debbie)
12/28/2006	Pursuant to Administrative Rule 19 Documents Destroyed Index # 3
	PURSUANT TO RULE 19 OF ADMIN RULES THIS RECORD WAS DESTROYED

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Defendant Erickson, Total Financial Assess Total Payments and C Balance Due as of 01	sment redits		375.00 375.00 <b>0.00</b>
12/23/1992	Transaction Assessment			375.00
12/23/1992	Counter Payment	Receipt # 81-20999	ERICKSON, KRISTEN LEA	(375.00)

2 of 2 1/11/22, 7:07 PM

Kristen Vik's name prior to marriage was Kristen Erickson, so even with her name on the false police report she made as Kristn Vik, even while recovering from eye surgery, it did not take me long to learn a significant amount of information about her. At the time I could not be on a computer for very long either, but this was rather easy. As for the conviction of Dr. Sczepanski, that was also not too difficult. These were both obtained from the North Dakota Supreme Court website. One impression I had was perhaps he had lost his driver's license so she had to drive, but in my opinion with her position as Administrator of the North Dakota Surgery Center, these two know one another well.

I graduated from the University of North Dakota in May of 1992, but even in that year a DUI limit of intoxication had been significantly lowered and the fine was typically much higher than \$375. I have no criminal convictions but I do know a person at that time had to normally retain an Attorney and face a much more hefty fine and penalties. These two had the same prosecutor, Albert Frederick Arnason, no retained Attorney's, yet seemed to be swept through the system with a fine or merely \$375. The Supreme Court was not online back then so I have wondered if Sczepanski and Vik have ever disclose this in their licensing process. After a few years things like this tended to be overlooked in a background check, so it was rather easy to omit such a thing prior to a residency or licensing process. Much later the North Dakota Supreme Court went online and all remaining case files became available electronically, especially those resulting in convictions. While the case files are no longer available, the case itself, conviction, and court dockets are online and of public record so anyone can access this information.

In my requests for records from the North Dakota Surgery Center, they were made via a contact form, so I only have the replies and correspondence from Kristen Vik. After she denied my request I did not make additional contact, as Vik had already falsely reported me to police. After these requests I learned as well that she made much more than just a false report. Kristen Vik twisted words from one of two messages I left, which I stated earlier in this document, and made rather wild allegations fitting to a swatting call made to the dispatch center. I sent two messages to this facility over the weekend, after a six week waiting period in which my suffering had increased tremendously. The facility had these messages from the weekend, called me once the very next Monday, October 25th, 2021, while the note stated several attempts were made to reach me, etc., and that I had no voice mail which I do and it was reached in the one call but no message left. The next day, Tuesday, October 26th, 2021, in the morning while I was at home nearly blind talking with a friend, Vik then called police regarding these messages, making wild allegations fitting to a swatting call, followed by making a false police report. She had the messages since the weekend but waited until after a fraudulent note was generated from her facility Monday, then she made this call Tuesday. If Vik genuinely desired to report these messages, she could have done so online with the Grand Forks Police Department, without all the hoopla she added into the call. Swatting is a call intended to initiate a S.W.A.T. response, often with intent to get an individual killed. My requests for information are next and do show Vik has a much faster response to messages sent via their contact form, the very next morning, not two days or more, among other things.

# RE: Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery Center)

From: "Vik, Kristen"
To:

Date: Tue, 18 Jan 2022 15:30:22 +0000 (01/18/2022 09:30:22 AM)

Doug, you will need to reach out to the facility that you had seen Dr. Lommen at. They would be the entity to release that information to you since that is where it originated from.

----Original Message----

From:

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 1:48 PM

To: Vik, Kristen

Subject: Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery Center)

Submitted: Jan-17-2022 13:47 CST

Submitted By: Doug West

Phone Number: (701) 772-4935

Email Address:

Preferred Method of Contact: Email

Best Time to Call:

For Entity: North Dakota Surgery Center (8101)

Message:

Records Request,

Notes from the North Dakota Eye Clinic state a surgical clearance by Dr. Lommen. The note is regarding myself, Doug West, and is dated 10-25-21, stating I was cleared for surgery by Dr. Lommen on October 10-19-21, with preop is valid 60 days. Please mail me all documents the North Dakota Surgery Center received related to and/or regarding, the surgical clearance sent to NDSC by Dr. Lommen. Doug West, 908 Sunset Drive, Grand Forks, ND 58201 Thank you and have a Happy MLK Day

Disclaimer: The email and files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are

addressed. If you are not the original recipient or the person responsible for the delivering the email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error, and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it from your system without copying it, and notify the sender by reply email so that our address record can be corrected. Thank you. Surgery Partners, Inc.

# Re: Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery Center)

From:

To: "Vik, Kristen"

Date: Tue, 18 Jan 2022 09:37:13 -0600

This is not what I requested as I already have my records from that facility. What I requested is what you received from Dr. Lommen, since that became a part of my record with the NDSC.

Please mail to me via USPS, any and all records received by the NDSC from Dr. Lommen regarding surgical clearance.

Thank You, Doug West

----Original Message-----

From: "Vik, Kristen"

To:

Subject: RE: Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery Center)

Date: Tue, 18 Jan 2022 15:30:22 +0000

Doug, you will need to reach out to the facility that you had seen Dr. Lommen at. They would be the entity to release that information to you since that is where it originated from.

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Email Address:

Preferred Method of Contact: Email

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# RE: Re: Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery Center)

From: "Vik, Kristen"

To:

Date: Tue, 18 Jan 2022 20:25:47 +0000 (01/18/2022 02:25:47 PM)

I am sorry, the facility records you already have from your history and physical are the same as what we have. We have nothing beyond that. In fact, you were not a patient seen for surgery here so we literally have no other information. We can release an operative record created at our facility, had there been a procedure involved.

----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:37 AM

To: Vik, Kristen

Subject: [EXTERNAL SOURCE] Re: Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery

Center)

\*\*\*\*\*CAUTION: EMAIL IS FROM AN EXTERNAL SOURCE.\*\*\*\*\*

This is not what I requested as I already have my records from that facility. What I requested is what you received from Dr. Lommen, since that became a part of my record with the NDSC.

Please mail to me via USPS, any and all records received by the NDSC from Dr. Lommen regarding surgical clearance.

Thank You, Doug West

----Original Message-----

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To:

Subject: RE: Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery Center)

Date: Tue, 18 Jan 2022 15:30:22 +0000

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Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 1:48 PM

To: Vik, Kristen

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Phone Number: (701) 772-4935

Email Address:

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For Entity: North Dakota Surgery Center (8101)

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The correspondence above is from my submitting a request for medical information via the contact form on the North Dakota Surgery Center website. I had no idea it would be Kristen Vik, who made a false police report against me, to also be the one responding, as I had no intention of contacting her. My request was Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, which was the Martin Luther King holiday, or MLK Day. At this time I had obtained the false report made by Kristen Vik to law enforcement, but had no idea what she said in her call to the dispatch center, as it had inconsistencies with the police report. The call she made to dispatch was a call of terrorizing in that she shared to another person the possibility of an individual being out in the parking lot pointing an AK47 out a window, knowing this to be false as she requested a police officer come to the back door. Vik also omitted the fact I was nearly blind and could barely drive. Never was I instructed not to drive, but records from the North Dakota Eye Clinic made such false reference, so if I were in fact not to drive, it would make no sense for me to be in the front lot.

Both the North Dakota Eye Clinic and North Dakota Surgery Center operated in entire shrouded secrecy until I learned shortly before surgery enough information to cancel surgery and look elsewhere. The facilities and staff were elitist in every manner of conduct and behavior, actually quite fascist to say the least. If a patient had questions, they would not answer, as though a patient is nothing more than a lowly irrelevant number not deserving of answers. It felt very much to me I was not entitled to even ask questions because they were going to do whatever they desired regardless. When I wanted to learn of the eye plan for both eyes and lenses used, I requested a meeting with Dr. Sczepanski, Dr. Coles, and the anesthesiologist. I was told by KMT I doubt that's going to happen, but I had not been informed of anything I had questions about.

I was also told by Dr. Lommen there was no tube down one's throat or respirator, yet I learned at the last minute there was intent to use an oxygen apparatus which has no consistency with a cataract surgery. I had to learn these things on my own from those who did not even like the notion of a patient asking questions. I did not learn of the intended IOL's or IOL in this case, when I needed surgery on both eyes, until after I had surgery elsewhere and obtained records. I learned the intent was an outdated IOL.

When Kristen Vik made the false police report Tuesday morning, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, she twisted words from one of two messages I sent the facility over the weekend. But when I requested records on MLK Day, Vik responded the very next day, not two or three days later. Had my messages been of concern, they could have been reported over the weekend or Monday morning, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This happened the next day because the fraudulent medical notes, call to dispatch, and police report were staged.

In my request I referenced a surgical clearance note from the North Dakota Eye Clinic because I had recently received that via USPS from that clinic, but it was a note from the North Dakota Surgery Center. Vik has timely response to messages, the next day, but waited two days to make a false police report. She also displays knowledge of both records and releases. The next documents are dispatch transcripts called in by Vik.



**Grand Forks County** 

# PUBLIC SAFETY

ANSWERING POINT 122 South 5th Street Grand Forks, ND 58201

Dong West.





Name

Customer

Doug West

# Grand Forks County PSAP 122 South 5th Street, Room 228

122 South 5th Street, Room 228 Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201 (701) 787-2599 Fax Number (701) 787-8039 Phone Number Invoice No.

Date

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1/21/2022

Address City Phone	908 Sunset Dr Grand Forks State N	ND 58201	Order No. Rep FOB	
Qty	Descrip	ption	Unit Price	TOTAL
2	Transcription of ND Surgery Cer IR# 21-108454  3 hrs x \$25.00 per hr. (No charge)		\$25.00	\$50.00
4	4 pages (transcript) x \$ 00.25		\$0.25	\$1.00
			SubTotal	
( P	Cash Check		Shipping & Handling axes State	
0	Credit Card		TOTAL	\$51.00
Name CC #			Office Use Only	



# Grand Forks Public Safety Answering Point

Becky Ault, Director 122 South 5th Street Grand Forks, ND 58201 (701) 787-8042 Fax (701) 746-2599 Email: bault@grandforksgov.com

Doug West 908 Sunset Drive Grand Forks, ND 58201

January 21, 2022

Mr. West,

Per your request, here is the transcript of the call made from the North Dakota Surgery Center on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 9:26 a.m.

Dispatcher: Grand Forks Dispatch

**Caller:** Hey, um this is \_\_\_\_\_\_ at the ND Surgery Center and this is non-emergency but I do have something I'd like to go over with a police officer maybe, I have a couple emails from what was going to be a potential patient here, that I just feel that I would like to have on record as showing you guys.

Dispatcher: OK, was it like suicidal of nature?

Caller: No, not suicidal, no.

Dispatcher: And was it like .....

Caller: So, I was going to say the reason that I feel that I should report this is because apparently this person has a bit of a history as far as, ahh, having things against health care providers, um, etcetera, and he was apparently mad that he was asked to wear a mask in here, he called Friday, he was supposed to have surgery today. He called Friday and he was told he'd have to wear a mask in the facility and he absolutely freaked out. Well, apparently then over the weekend he looked up you know, our website which that email comes to me, I'm the \_\_\_\_\_\_, and so I just noticed this morning, and I'm like oh my gosh, I have an

email in here on Saturday and Sunday from him and its, its, not that he says anything like I'm going to hurt you guys, I'm going to threaten you, or you know, but in reading through it he quotes something like nearly identical to the Jews 57293, get on the car, everybody goes to camp, you're not following CDC guidelines, and then he says, you're na, you're using Nazi language, it's like all over the board so it makes me think he's an actual legit schizophrenic and that makes me scared that OK, is he sitting in our parking lot waiting for somebody with a gun or an AK-47 out of his window? So that's why I'm just like, I want somebody to have this reported to them because I don't know what he's capable of.

Dispatcher: OK, what was your last name?
Caller: It's
Dispatcher: OK.
Caller: And he does not come out and say he's going to do anything but in reading it, I'm just, you can tell the mental state, and it scares me.
<b>Dispatcher:</b> OK. Yeah, we can have an officer, do you want an officer to give you a call or stop over there?
Caller: Well, you know what if you he wants to stop over I'll show him the emails.
Dispatcher: How do you spell your name?
Caller: It's
Dispatcher: OK, and what's your phone number?
Caller: Umm, my office number here is
Dispatcher: OK and its at the ND Surgery Center?
Caller: Yes.
Dispatcher: OK, and is that the one on Demers or 47 <sup>th</sup> ?
Caller: No, were on 47 <sup>th</sup> .

Dispatcher: OK. And is there a specific area where you're at that they officer should go to?

**Caller:** Umm, you know what I, I think actually that rather than having him come through the front lobby door, and getting everybody all excited, maybe I'll have him to come, if you can ask him to come on the North, back side receiving door.

Dispatcher: OK, and can he open that door or ....

**Caller:** That door will open and then um, have him give me a call and I will, it is keypad locked from there so I'll come and get him. I just feel like I don't want him to come in through the lobby because people are going to wonder, like our patients, and I don't want them to think, what is going on here.

Dispatcher: OK

Caller: Thank you.

Dispatcher: Yeah, ahh, the area officer, he's available now so it shouldn't be too long, I'll let

him know.

Caller: OK, thank you.

Dispatcher: Yep. Bye-bye.

Caller: Bye.

End of Call.

The following is the dispatch radio traffic:

Dispatcher: 623 Central

Officer: Go ahead.

**Dispatcher:** North Dakota Surgery Center 2600 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, 2600 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, for harassment occurred prior. If you go to the back receiving door and call the reporting party \_\_\_\_\_ will come and get you.

\_\_\_\_

Officer: 10-4

Officer: Can you give me a time and number please?

Dispatcher: 623 your time and number is 8454, 8-4-5-4 at 09:26.

Officer: 10-4

If you have any questions regarding this transcript, you may contact me at the email or telephone number listed below.

Setsone Hoverson

Deborah Hoverson

Grand Forks 9-1-1 Center

dhoverson@grandforksgov.com

701 787-8039

SC1188	By Show - Ton	Money	BALANCE DUE
	From 1 To	Check	PAYMENT
		Cash	ACCOUNT
	that "	heidert run	For Rent
DOLLARS	to the transfer	0.1	
s 254	From WIM WINT		
<b>Vo.</b> 425300	Date 113/22		

# GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT

# Incident Run Sheet

1-21-081635

Printed On: 01/13/2022 4:42 PM



#### Incident Information

Bus./Common: ND SURGERY CENTER

Address:

2600 47TH S AVE

Suite:

Nature:

City/State/Zip: GRAND FORKS, ND 58201

Cross Streets: S 25TH

S COLUMBIA

HARASSMENT OCCURRED PRIOR

10/26/2021 09:30:14 CALL RP AND

RD

Nature Code: HAROP

Date: 10/26/2021

How Received: Phone

Call Taker: 35656

Time: 09:26:39

Subdivision:

Priority: 2

Caller Information

Address:

Suite:

City/State/Zip: , ND

Latitude:

47.87541985

0

Longitude:

-97.06493971

Phone: Comments

Phone:

Contact:

Responder	Date	Time	Comment
35656	10/26/2021	09:26:51	HAS COUPLE EMAILS FROM POTENTIAL CLIENT
35656	10/26/2021	09:27:06	WOULD LIKE TO REPORT THEM
35656	10/26/2021	09:27:26	PERSON HAS A HISTORY OF HAVING ISSUES WITH HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS
35656	10/26/2021	09:27:32	WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SURGERY TODAY
35656	10/26/2021	09:27:46	FREAKED OUT BECAUSE HE WAS ASKED TO WEAR A MASK IN THEIR FACILITY
35656	10/26/2021	09:28:22	EMAILS SENT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY THAT SEEMED SCHIZOPHRENIC
35656	10/26/2021	09:30:05	WOULD LIKE OFFICER TO RESPOND TO BACK RECEIVING DOOR

### Disposition

35656

1. REPORT TAKEN

10/26/2021 1002 3.

2.

4.

Response

Law Grid: Grand Forks Police 6B

Fire Grid:

EMS Grid

District: JE

WILL COME GET OFFICER

Responders

Responder 623

Dispatched 09:30:59

Enroute On Scene To Hospital At Hospital

Cleared In Service In Quarters

10:02:39

**RMS Report Numbers** 

Agency

Fire

**EMS** 

Law

GRAND FORKS POLICE DEPARTMENT

21-108454

City of Grand Forks, North Dakota Grand Forks Police Department 122 South 5th Street PO BOX 5548 787-8000

Received At: POLRABFDS1 Received by: JKARAS

Date: 2022/01/10 Receipt Number: 137397

Received of: DOUG WEST

Receipt Detail Photocopy/copies

2.00

 Item Total:
 2.00

 Chg/Fee:
 .00

 Total:
 2.00

Type of Payment: Cash

# Case Report

Case Report Number: 21108454-001

Case Number: 21108454 CFS Number: GFPD21-9667



Subject

Suspicious Activity

Entered On

10/26/2021 10:04:56 AM

Entered By

623 - Fuka, Richard J

Reported On

10/26/2021

Reporting Officer

623 - Fuka, Richard J

Report Type

I - Information

Disposition Assisted By 5 - Inactive

Assisted By Other Agency

Occurred On

(Date and Time)

Or Between (Date and Time) Tuesday 10/26/2021 9:26:00 AM

Attachments

Attachment Other

None

Attached Forms Attached Forms Other

Location Name

Address

Jurisdiction

Call Source

Exceptional

Related Cases

Clearances Basis Exceptional

Clearance Date

CSZ

two photocopies of emails sent by

ND SURGERY CENTER

GRAND FORKS, North Dakota

2600 47TH S AVE

58201

P - Phone

West

Offense

Offense

87G - Suspicious

Person/Vehicle/Activity

Code Section

IBR Code

Statute

Location Type

09 - Drug Store/Doctors

Office/Hospital

Completed Y - Yes

Hate/Bias

88 - None (No Bias)

Premises Entered

Entry

Suspected of Using

None/Unknown

Weapons

Criminal Activity

Type Security

Tools

Offenders

Suspect Name

West, Doug Joseph

Alias

Address	CSZ	Address Type	County	Country
908 Sunset Dr	Grand Forks, ND 58201	H - Home	Grand Forks	USA - United States Of

# Case Report

Case Report Number: 21108454-001

					America
Phone Num	nber	Phone Type	Email Address		
(701) 775-8 (701) 772-4		H - Home O - Other			
Sex	M - Male	Eye Color		Build	
Race	W - White	Hair Color		Height	
Ethnicity	N - Not of	Hair Style		Weight	
	Hispanic/Latino	Hair Length		Resident	R - Resident
000	Origin	Facial Hair		POB	
DOB		Complexion		DL Country	
Age	58	Teeth			
Juvenile	N - No	13001			

Scars, Marks, Tattoos	SMT Location	Description	
Attire		MO	
Employer/School		1010 022 0	
Employer Address		Habitual Offender Status	
Employer CSZ		Notes	
Occupation/Grade		110103	

# Victims Witnesses

# Other Entities

Name

Vik, Kristn

Aliases

Type

C - Complainant

Address	CSZ	Address Type	County	Country	
2600 47th Ave S	Grand Forks, ND	W - Work			

Phone Number	Phone Type	Email Address
(701) 885-4140	C - Cell	
(701) 738-4256	W - Work	

Sex

F - Female

Race

W - White

Ethnicity

N - Not of

Printed 1/10/2022 10:41 AM

Page 2 of 3

# Case Report

Case Report Number: 21108454-001

Hispanic/Latino

Origin

1970

50 Age N - No Juvenile

Eye Color

Hair Color Facial Hair

Complexion Height

Weight

Resident

POB

DL Country

Attire

DOB

Employer/School

Employer Address

Employer CSZ

Occupation/Grade

Notes

# **Properties**

## Narrative

		THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O
10/26/2021 10:09:54 AM	623 - Fuka, Richard J	suspicious activity

#### SUMMARY

Kristen Vik, Office Administrator, for the ND Surgery Center reported two suspicious emails that came from a potential client, Doug West. West was apparently upset that he was told that he had to wear a face mask while at the surgery center and he was not happy about it. He sent two emails complaining about this and referencing the staff there to be like Nazi soldiers at WWII concentration camps. I attempted to contact West but no response. I left a voice message for him. The messages were not threatening but concerning to the staff and they will call if West either continues the emails or shows up in person.

#### INCIDENT DETAILS

On 10-26-21 at 0926 hours I was sent to the ND Surgery Center at 2600 47th Ave S. in regards to suspicious emails. I met the caller, Kristen Vik upon arrival. Vik is the Office administrator for the center. She told me that a potential client, Doug West had an appointment for today, 10-26-21. He called the business on Friday, 10-22-21 with questions. He was told then by staff that he had to wear a face mask while in the building. West got very upset and was verbally abusive to the staff over the phone.

On Saturday West sent an email to Kristen Vik. This message calls the surgery center's staff as 'elitist' and "nearly identical to Jew#57293, get on the box car, everyone goes t the camp". and also telling Vik that the business is using "Nazi language". West sent another email on Sunday. This email is not suspicious sounding. See attached photocopies of both emails for more details on the messages.

The messages were sent to Vik but appears to be directed at the business in general. West did not make any threats. His wording did however concern Vik and she does not want him as a client at all. I attempted to call West. He has two phone numbers that are 'magic Jack' numbers. He did not answer and I left him a message.

I advised Vik to call police if West harasses the business or shows up in person. I also told her to respond back to him that she feels the email is harassing if he emails her again.

Vik wanted a report on file. Nothing further.

#### CASE STATUS

File as inactive. End of report.

# Vik, Kristen

#21108454

From:

Sent:

Saturday, October 23, 2021 11:20 PM

To:

Vik, Kristen

Subject:

Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery Center)

Submitted: Oct-23-2021 23:19 CST

Submitted By: Doug West

Phone Number: (701) 772-4935

Email Address:

Preferred Method of Contact: Email

Best Time to Call:

For Entity: North Dakota Surgery Center (8101)

#### Message:

Your website and phone call with staff indicate an extreme elitist attitude, nearly identical to Jew#57293, get on the box car, everyone goes to the camp. You are not following CDC guidelines in any capacity whatsoever, which is clear in the Nazi language used on this website. You are also in violation of the ADA. I've had six surgeries and never have i experienced anything like this rude and elitist attitude, shrouded in secrecy until the last minute before a surgery

# Vik, Kristen

# 2110 8454

From:

Sent: Sunday, October 24, 2021 11:09 AM

To: Vik, Kristen

Subject: Contact Form Submission (North Dakota Surgery Center)

Submitted: Oct-24-2021 11:08 CST

Submitted By: Doug West

Phone Number: (701) 772-4935

Email Address:

Preferred Method of Contact: Email

Best Time to Call:

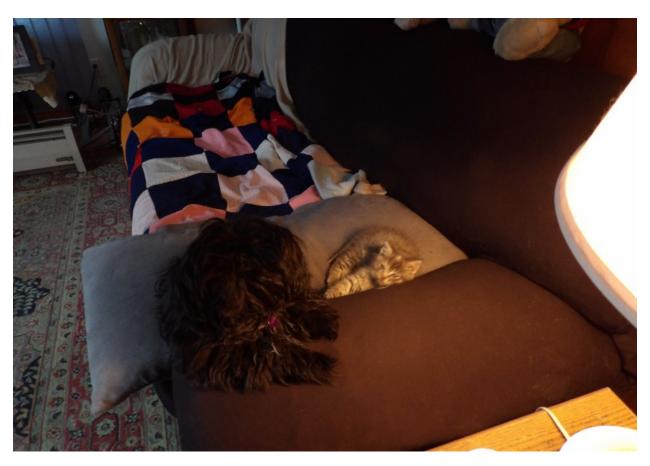
For Entity: North Dakota Surgery Center (8101)

## Message:

Upon my first appointment, Sept 15th, 2021, I relayed I was disabled with CFS and provided critical medical information from specialized physicians. I was very clear on this and disabled alone means a likelihood of certain accommodations. Regardless of any local physician, the medical information provided shows I obviously will need some special circumstances regarding anesthesia and surgery, yet six weeks have went by and I've not been contacted. I found out myself there is no plan yet.

The call to dispatch made by North Dakota Surgery Center Administrator, Kristen Vik, is a call known as swatting which is often intended to get a person killed. These types of calls falsely using terms like "schizophrenic" with "issues" combined with "AK47" are common ways to get a person shot to death via S.W.A.T. initiated language. This call was also intended to cause significant fear through harassment of false reporting, is an extreme form of character defamation, terrorizing, and is clearly directed to be an intentional infliction of emotional harm and distress. After receiving this transcript I locked my doors and stopped walking my dogs for weeks. Having Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, I also developed the worst sore left neck gland ever for roughly six weeks.

It was known I canceled surgery the prior Friday, as I clearly stated I would not be in surgery with the use of an oxygen apparatus and said no to a drape covering. It was also known I would need to go elsewhere which often means I would show up to sign release forms, which I did at other facilities. Upon leaving with paperwork rolled up in one hand I could have easily then been met by a S.W.A.T. team saying, "don't move", and then waving my left hand up over my face to block the glare so I could see, with significant glare in my left eye, I could have been shot and killed. My right eye was nothing but blur and glare. Kristen Vik knew this as well so the nature of the call is absolutely inconsistent with my condition. I've also never served in the military nor have I ever been hunting, and the nature of this call is totally inconsistent with my character.



In my home you see puppies and kitties, computer gear, Bose and Yamaha music gear, and a hand selected vintage collection of Slingerland drums. In the back of the above photo behind the heater are vintage Slingerland bass drum pedals and these are the types of hobbies I engage in. I plan on breeding my dogs as Bichon and Shih Tzu are very popular designer breeds. I have Teddy, Freddie, and cats Betty and Jetty. On my couch is Freddie, the female Shih Tzu, and Jetty. You rarely see the face on Freddie as she is all black and I drove to Fargo July 9<sup>th</sup>, of 2021 where I paid more for her than I did my new Eyhance IOL's which resulted in 20/20 vision. What you don't see in my home is a gun collection, bear rug, nor a deer head mounted on the wall. I am very much a highly skilled computer geek, artist, and professional musician who enjoys friendly pets.

As stated previously, if it were not for the Can-c eye drops clearing up my right eye for a temporary time period, I would not have made it to Fargo for my first eye appointment where I drove slowly down old Highway 81. After visiting my uncle in north Fargo and trying to find the highway, I stopped at a convenience store to use the restroom and buy some pop and candy. I asked about Highway 81 and learned I was in Minnesota, then realizing the bridge I went over was not a creek I didn't know of, but the Red River.

At almost exactly the time Kristen Vik made this swatting call to dispatch, I was at home talking with a drummer friend about my eyes and me being a better drummer than he is, and I received a call on one phone then the next from a police officer. His name is pronounced "Few Ka" and not "Fooko as he said on the message he left. Kristen Vik knew when making this call I had canceled surgery and was completely blind in my right eye. I had no peripheral view of anything and no binocular vision. I also did not have any depth perception and could not swat a fly, so to say anything such as pointing an AK47 out a window is ridiculous and inconsistent with both my condition and character.

Kristen Vik wanted an officer to come to the back door which is inconsistent with any fear of a "schizophrenic" individual being in the front parking lot with an "AK47", and of course Dr. Sczepanski was present at the North Dakota Surgery Center during this time, who appears to know Vik from college. Dr. Sczepanski signed two fraudulent medical notes designed to create an appearance of me not having canceled surgery the prior Friday, and that his surgery center made several attempts to call me Monday without an answer and without voice mail. There was only one call Monday which didn't make sense since I had canceled Friday, and the surgery center reached my voice mail and did not leave a message. Officer Fuka also reached my voice mail and left a message.

Dr. Sczepanski is in an executive position over Kristen Vik, who is in an administrative position over staff at the North Dakota Surgery Center. These facilities along with Opticare knew I had canceled and treated me horribly while I was suffering from being very dizzy and out of balance while blind in my right eye and a glaring left eye. I was told I would not have to wear a mask and was not upset, mad, nor "freaked out" as Vik falsely claims, whatever that means. Since I have asthma I was told I would not have to wear a mask but then learned the facility uses oxygen on "everybody" during surgery.

As previously explained and I will again display the two fraudulent notes later in this document along with phone logs, I was on the telephone with the North Dakota Surgery Center when I received a call from the North Dakota Eye Clinic. Out of concern for my health conditions which were neglected altogether, I asked about a mask and was told I would not have to wear one due to the fact I have asthma. I then said good because I did not want to wake up from surgery with someone putting a mask on me. At that point I was told about the oxygen apparatus and had a polite discussion with the call ending to take the incoming call from the North Dakota Eye Clinic.

These facilities had six weeks to inform me of their manner of conducting surgery and refused to inform me of anything, as though I had no individual rights to knowledge of surgical procedures, the intended IOL's, an eye plan, anesthesia, or basically anything I asked of the facilities, so I canceled. An oxygen apparatus for a cataract surgery is an over use and I did not want to go to oxygen and then off from oxygen, as it can become problematic for me, especially with anesthesia. Had I been informed of this six weeks earlier I would have found a different facility, which I did and was treated guite well, without any form of fascist style of conduct. I also wore no mask during my appointment at the North Dakota Eye Clinic so the facilities were aware of my condition six weeks prior and were not at all prepared, nor did they seem to care. When I hear that they use oxygen for "everybody", people with asthma, "everybody", I feel like an irrelevant number and not an individual. These types of misdirected CDC guidelines and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, are not something one would expect from any medical provider, as they of all should know better. To use an oxygen apparatus for a short cataract surgery is a violation of the most basic of Nuremberg codes, in that the device should not exceed the experiment. After becoming worse and suffering for six weeks, I learned this at the last minute when I could and should have been informed during my eye appointment with Dr. Sczepanski and would have then opted out.

Kristen Vik has a faster response time to messages but waited until Tuesday morning to make a swatting call to dispatch followed by an entirely false police report. Vik also stated I was a potential client when I had canceled, and also stated I was to have surgery that Tuesday, October 26th, 2021, when I had canceled Friday, October 22nd, of 2021 when KMT called me and talked for more than one hour. The North Dakota Surgery Center also removed me from their schedule Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, when falsely claiming to make several attempts to reach me. Vik also said she did not want me as a client at all which makes no sense. Her facility removed me from their schedule the day before her false report to law enforcement, so I was not a client at all. But if Vik did not want me as a client due to messages received over the weekend, it makes no sense for the North Dakota Surgery Center to have called me Monday, October 25th, of 2021, at all. I canceled on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, and the following Monday while already having my messages telling the facility how horribly they treated me, the facility called me, then generated a fraudulent medical note, as did the North Dakota Eye Clinic on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. I was not a potential client at all and never would have been, were I informed of their manner of conducting surgery, suffering for six weeks.

There was no prior harassment nor verbal abuse as Kristen Vik claimed falsely, as my telephones keep detailed logs through the provider. The only call where I connected to anyone with the North Dakota Surgery Center was Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, which ended politely to take the call from the North Dakota Eye Clinic. The note states I called and mentioned a drape covering, which I had never heard of until I received this call, which was more than one hour long. This was a detailed discussion which resulted in nothing to accommodate my health conditions nor establish an eye plan for both eyes, as they need to work as a pair. Had there been harassment and verbal abuse, KMT could have simply canceled my surgery and hanged up the telephone, but did not.

Dr. Sczepanski and his friend Kristen Vik in my opinion, did this knowing upon my canceling surgery, that I would have to go elsewhere soon before losing vision in my right eye permanently. Upon going elsewhere I would likely not be treated like a number but an individual, and that I would get what I needed which was surgery on both eyes, covered by insurance, resulting in 20/20 vision. The plan with Dr. Coles to keep me coming in for cataract monitoring and updating glasses which would be out of balance, would have left me crippled and dependent upon constant updates for glasses. This attempted fraud would of course be learned of later, which it was after gaining my vision back, so they decided to generate fraudulent notes. These notes appeared I did not cancel surgery and was some type of questionable "no show" who did not answer his phone and had no voice mail, falsely claiming several attempts were made to reach me when that is not true. The surgery center is a small building and with Dr. Sczepanski being there Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, along with Kristen Vik, he obviously had to know she made this call and met with a police officer at the back door. After all, it was Dr. Sczepanski who digitally signed both fraudulent notes which I will detail later.

This police officer, Richard Fuka, was over zealous in taking the false information from Kristen Vik. He called me without any verification toward truth of the falsely reported information, misrepresenting his name which is an entrapment scenario. Fuka never questioned why Vik would be reporting messages she had for two days when she could have reported them online Monday without the swatting call and false information, and he never showed any concern for my well being. If I were to have surgery but canceled, he could have at least asked what type of surgery as I may have needed help. Had he asked he would have learned I was nearly blind. He also listed me on the report as Habitual Offender Status when I have no criminal convictions. Sczepanski and Vik both have criminal convictions on their record when I have none of any kind whatsoever.

Dr. Sczepanski is friends with a Deputy Chief, Jim Remer, who is in an administrative position over Officer Richard Fuka with the Grand Forks Police Department. Remer has a factually documented history of corruption going back to the mid 1990's, which I have strong evidence to this being true. In 2008, police followed me around and tried to stop me when I have a clear traffic record. They later mailed me a traffic ticket in attempt to establish probable cause. During this time to make me look like a criminal, they ran me through the FBI for a background check which came back clean, without convictions.

Date 10/22/21 2:57 pm Patient: Douglas J. West DOB: Age 58 M 908 Sunset Dr Grand Forks, ND 58201 Assessment Types Misc. Notes Progress Notes Patient called here and the NDSC with concerns regarding his pre op physical with Dr. Lommen and his upcoming surgery. He states that he has chronic fatigue syndrome and asthma and can not wear a mask or have a drape covering his face at any time. NDSC informed him that he would need to wear a mask there and I told him that he would have to have a surgical drape over his face during surgery. He did not want to cancel or reschedule his surgery at this time. Dr. Sczepanski informed. kmt

Mark Sczepanski, MD

Date 10/25/21 12:53 pm Patient: Douglas J. West Age 58 M DOB: 908 Sunset Dr Grand Forks, ND 58201 Assessment Types Misc. Notes Progress Notes We have removed patient from tomorrow's surgery schedule. NDSC has made several attempts to reach him to provide him a check in time and further instructions. All calls to patient have gone unanswered and they are not able to leave a voice-mail. He has been cleared for surgery by Dr. Lommen on 10/19/2021, so the pre-op is valid for 60 days. jo Mark Sczepanski, MD

# New VM (1) - 0:02 minutes in your magicJack mailbox from 7012159794

Date: Tue, 26 Oct 2021 10:59:15 -0400 (10/26/2021 09:59:15 AM)

From: magicJack <voicemail@magicjack.com>

To: DOUG WEST

Attachments: 1

#### Dear magicJack User:

You received a new 0:02 minutes voicemail message, on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 10:59:15 AM in mailbox 7017724935 from 7012159794.

To access your voicemail:

Double click the attached ".WAV" audio file to play the message, or dial your magicJack telephone number from any telephone and press the "\*" key at the welcome prompt. You will be asked to enter your voicemail password.

You may also click on the "VMAIL" button on your computer's magicJack display.

Note: To play the attached voicemail file on your Android device, you will need to download and install the free app Remote Wave.

You can download Remote Wave by either visiting play.google.com and searching for Remote Wave or by clicking <a href="here">here</a>.

### Attachments

Name Size

Voicemail sound attachment. (msg0001.WAV) 4.3 kB

# New VM (1) - 0:39 minutes in your magicJack mailbox from 7012159794

Date: Tue, 26 Oct 2021 11:01:48 -0400 (10/26/2021 10:01:48 AM)

From: magicJack <voicemail@magicjack.com>

To: DOUG WEST

Attachments: 1

#### Dear magicJack User:

You received a new 0:39 minutes voicemail message, on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 11:01:48 AM in mailbox 7017758385 from 7012159794.

To access your voicemail:

Double click the attached ".WAV" audio file to play the message, or dial your magicJack telephone number from any telephone and press the "\*" key at the welcome prompt. You will be asked to enter your voicemail password.

You may also click on the "VMAIL" button on your computer's magicJack display.

Note: To play the attached voicemail file on your Android device, you will need to download and install the free app Remote Wave.

You can download Remote Wave by either visiting play.google.com and searching for Remote Wave or by clicking <a href="here">here</a>.

### Attachments

Name Size

Voicemail sound attachment. (msg0001.WAV) 64.7 kB

The two medical notes from the North Dakota Eye Clinic, Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, and the North Dakota Surgery Center, Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, are both fraudulent, which I believe was done after I had said no to surgery with an oxygen apparatus or a drape covering my airway. Both are of risks in my condition and were not necessary for a cataract surgery. No one would explain the reasoning for this as well, nor would they explain anything at all. When I spoke with someone at the surgery center I was told due to my having asthma I would not have to wear a mask. Then I learned of this surgical mask with oxygen and the discussion went on politely until I had to end the call to take the call from the North Dakota Eye Clinic with the initialed individual, KMT.

The North Dakota Eye Clinic note from Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, states I called and is very short for a conversation lasting more than one hour. She called me while I was on the phone with the North Dakota Surgery Center so it seems odd she would say I called and also called the NDSC. What is very odd is KMT says what the NDSC informed me of when KMT was not a part of the conversation. I also was told I would not have to wear a mask at the NDSC but an oxygen apparatus during surgery. The surgery center never informed me of any surgical drape over my face during surgery, it was KMT who proposed that in alternative to an oxygen apparatus and I said no, and that I would not go forward in surgery with anything like that. It was known six weeks earlier that I have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and asthma, but it is very odd for her to have called me then said I called and stated I cannot wear a mask or have a drape covering my face at any time, as I had never heard of such a drape covering until KMT proposed this. I also provided these details upon my first eye appointment with Dr. Sczepanski so of course it was known nothing like this could be used with a person in my condition. It is rather peculiar as well to put in a line claiming I did not want to cancel or reschedule surgery at that time when I told her no to surgery in this manner as that can become dangerous.

The other note from the North Dakota Surgery Center on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, claims I was removed from tomorrow's surgery schedule when I canceled the previous Friday. On that Monday I was already obtaining records to go elsewhere and purchased new glasses so I could at least see slightly better from my left eye until finding adequate facilities. This note is fraudulent and designed to create an appearance of me being some type of questionable no show who does not answer his telephone nor has any type of voice mail. They already had the two messages I sent via contact form and knew I had canceled surgery, but instead created that note. The next day is when Kristen Vik made the swatting call to dispatch followed by a false police report which is all on the public record. I received one call while in the bathroom from the surgery center and they did reach my voice mail but did not leave a message. I had no idea why they called since I obviously canceled. But the note claims the NDSC made several attempts to reach me to provide a check in time and further instructions. They made one call but the note states all "calls" have gone unanswered and they were not able to leave a voice mail when they did reach voice mail but did not leave a message. The next morning, Officer Fuka clearly reached my main phone's voice mail through its end, leaving no message, then called my second phone and left a voice mail, which is always on.

Other than my two phone numbers, all information in this document for privacy reasons are blacked out. These are things like names of facilities or names of medical providers not needing to be disclosed, and also other information such as date of birth or clinical numbers, as well as electronic communication like email addresses. To display facts my telephone numbers need to be disclosed but for years, both numbers have been in directory assistance anyway and now being magicJack phones, they also both have a call screening enabled. Callers are required to enter a random number for each call in order to get through. The voice mail is reached after four rings by magicJack default.

My main number is 701-772-4935 and second is 701-775-8385. On surgery center note from Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, only two calls were made on my main number all day and into the evening, as I only use that number for most formal matters and relatives who know that number to this house for years. One was from the North Dakota Surgery Center and is incoming, and the other is me calling my cousin that evening. I exported my logs from magicJack, Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, after receiving the fraudulent notes via USPS, and the logs go back 90 days. They are available in XLS and PDF formats and XLS can be opened in a spreadsheet, while the PDF cannot be edited.

magicJack phones are a VOIP with call screening, voice mail, call logs, and additional features all provided through magicJack. If a call comes in after four rings it goes to voice mail and if the caller disconnects before its end, I don't receive a message which is obvious in the calls made by Officer Fuka. If the caller stays on through the end but says nothing, I receive an email with an empty audio file and if they leave a message I receive an email with a detailed message attached as an audio file. Those features, including the call logs are through magicJack and not by any device at home. Ten digit dialing is required for all numbers and every call hits the magicJack servers. If you dial a 701 area code and wait too long to dial the complete number, it times out and says in order to complete this call you have to dial the area code and number. Even that hits the server and creates a lot showing only the area code was dialed. Any miscalled number and any call incoming or outgoing hits the magicJack server and appears in call logs.

magicJack servers are also in Eastern Daylight Time and never changes, so when in Central Daylight Time a call at 9:00 a.m. shows up in logs as 10:00 a.m., which is why Officer Fuka's calls have the correct email time received but the call times are one hour later. This is also how caller ID is at home, one hour later and when falling back to standard time the ID and logs show to be two hours later. This cannot be changed by the user and is all through the provider so even if my house burned down today, the phones would still ring tomorrow with messages coming into email and logs active, which I can obtain through another location. Call logs are also not perfectly sorted by the times of the calls, which is also out of user control. My logs for both phones are added next for the relevant time periods, as I had no contact with these facilities nor received calls from them after Monday, October 25th, 2021. The spreadsheet format is easier to work with and the PDF format renders with cluttered magicJack banners, so I export both formats for comparison to clearly show the logs are not edited in any way.

Number	Direction	Time	Duration
Number (701) 772 7775	Direction	-	Duration 00:1:03
(701) 772-7775	Outgoing	10/27/2021 12:02 pm 10/26/2021 01:17 pm	00:1:03
(701) 772-7775	Outgoing	•	00:1:07
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(605) 777-9522	Outgoing	10/26/2021 09:34 pm	00:0:46
(701) 215-9794	Incoming	10/26/2021 10:58 am	00:0:50
(605) 777-9522	Outgoing	10/25/2021 08:27 pm	00:0:22
(701) 738-4240	Incoming	10/25/2021 11:59 am	00:0:53
(605) 777-9522	Outgoing	10/24/2021 05:25 pm	00:0:21
(605) 777-9522	Outgoing	10/24/2021 08:37 pm	00:0:44
(218) 773-3438	Outgoing	10/23/2021 12:19 pm	00:0:55
(218) 773-3438	Outgoing	10/23/2021 12:18 pm	00:1:01
(218) 791-0241	Outgoing	10/23/2021 12:20 pm	00:16:06
(701) 775-3151	Incoming	10/22/2021 02:30 pm	00:64:48
(701) 738-4240	Outgoing	10/22/2021 02:22 pm	00:9:02
(701) 746-6336	Outgoing	10/22/2021 12:03 pm	00:1:31
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/22/2021 10:33 am	00:1:48
(218) 773-3438	Outgoing	10/22/2021 10:05 am	00:0:46
(701) 775-3151	Outgoing	10/22/2021 10:24 am	00:1:57
(218) 773-5801	Incoming	10/22/2021 11:27 am	00:4:57
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/22/2021 10:32 am	00:0:40
(218) 773-3438	Outgoing	10/22/2021 10:14 am	00:6:16
(218) 773-5801	Incoming	10/21/2021 09:58 am	00:0:53
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/21/2021 09:38 am	00:0:20
(218) 773-5801	Incoming	10/21/2021 09:46 am	00:5:49
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/21/2021 03:30 pm	00:5:50
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/21/2021 05:22 pm	00:8:25
(218) 773-5858	Outgoing	10/21/2021 11:38 am	00:1:59
(701) 738-4240	Outgoing	10/20/2021 05:08 pm	00:0:27
(701) 775-2500	Outgoing	10/20/2021 04:34 pm	00:0:10
(701) 237-5211	Outgoing	10/20/2021 05:23 pm	00:6:34
(701) 237-6500	Outgoing	10/20/2021 04:36 pm	00:23:33
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/20/2021 09:03 am	00:0:38
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/20/2021 09:05 am	00:1:50
(701) 780-5000	Outgoing	10/20/2021 05:10 pm	00:6:56
(701) 772-2500	Outgoing	10/20/2021 04:34 pm	00:0:06
605	Outgoing	10/20/2021 09:05 am	00:0:04
(701) 738-4240	Outgoing	10/20/2021 05:17 pm	00:0:54
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/20/2021 05:35 pm	00:2:00
(701) 738-4240	Outgoing	10/20/2021 05:04 pm	00:0:11
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/20/2021 04:18 pm	00:15:18
(701) 328-4240	Outgoing	10/20/2021 05:02 pm	00:1:52
(605) 333-6546	Outgoing	10/20/2021 09:05 am	00:0:13
(701) 738-4240	Outgoing	10/20/2021 05:34 pm	00:0:07
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(218) 773-5801	Incoming	10/22/2021 11:27 am	00:4:57
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/22/2021 10:32 am	00:0:40
(218) 773-3438	Outgoing	10/22/2021 10:14 am	00:6:16
(218) 773-5801	Incoming	10/21/2021 09:58 am	00:0:53
(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/21/2021 09:38 am	00:0:20
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(701) 234-5876	Outgoing	10/21/2021 03:30 pm	00:5:50
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10/11/2021 10:34 am 00:2:03 (701) 775-3151 Outgoing

## magicJack APP Mobile Devices

**Device Name** 

8 of 10 1/5/22, 9:19 AM

Number	Direction	Time	Duration
(701) 739-7920	Outgoing	10/30/2021 10:13 am	00:57:03
(701) 739-7920	Incoming	10/30/2021 10:11 am	00:1:00
(701) 739-7920	Incoming	10/29/2021 10:31 am	00:54:18
(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/29/2021 01:09 pm	00:16:14
(218) 230-3657	Incoming	10/29/2021 11:22 am	00:62:39
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(701) 739-7920	Outgoing	10/28/2021 11:54 am	00:1:20
(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/28/2021 07:49 pm	00:6:34
(701) 739-7920	Incoming	10/27/2021 10:04 am	00:65:56
(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/27/2021 07:50 pm	00:11:44
(701) 215-9794	Incoming	10/26/2021 11:00 am	00:1:26
(701) 739-7920	Incoming	10/26/2021 10:27 am	00:68:56
(701) 739-7920	Outgoing	10/25/2021 05:45 pm	00:0:22
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(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/13/2021 07:57 pm	00:0:37
(218) 230-3657	Outgoing	10/12/2021 07:19 pm	00:0:10
(218) 230-3657	Outgoing	10/12/2021 05:31 pm	00:0:29
(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/07/2021 06:03 pm	00:1:41
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(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/20/2021 06:37 pm	00:0:29
(701) 739-7920	Outgoing	10/20/2021 10:20 am	00:12:54
INT'L (HTTPS://STORE. (701) 885-9012	MAGICJACK.COM/ACCOL	UNT/MJLANDINGPAGES.DO?PAGE=IPP) 10/20/2021 07:02 pm	00:22:03
(701) 739-7920	Outgoing	10/20/2021 10:33 am	00:32:44
HELP (HTTPS://HELP.M.	AGICJACK, COM)	10/19/2021 05:18 pm	00:12:21
(701) 739-7920	Outgoing	10/19/2021 04:44 pm	00:1:32
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(701) 739-7920	Incoming	10/18/2021 09:05 pm	00:32:18
(701) 739-7920	Outgoing	10/18/2021 01:52 pm	00:1:20
(218) 230-3657	Outgoing	10/16/2021 11:27 am	00:0:30
(218) 230-3657	Incoming	10/16/2021 11:28 am	00:70:52
(701) 739-7920	Incoming	10/15/2021 11:29 am	00:18:38
(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/14/2021 07:01 pm	00:2:35
(218) 230-3657	Outgoing	10/13/2021 06:28 pm	00:0:05
(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/13/2021 06:42 pm	00:15:46
(701) 885-9012	Outgoing	10/13/2021 07:57 pm	00:0:37
(218) 230-3657 of 15	Outgoing	10/12/2021 07:19 pm	00:0:10 1/5/22, 9:21 A
(218) 230-3657	Outgoing	10/12/2021 05:31 pm	00:0:29

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The prior seven pages of telephone logs are from my two home phones and consist of both formats available from magicJack. The first three pages are from 701-772-4935 and the last four pages from 701-775-8385. I tend to use the first mostly as my main home phone and the second for friends. I did use my second phone for one call to Eyemart Express on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, as I previously mentioned and all other calls mentioned in this document were made or received from my main phone number. The logs are all in the time period of Central Daylight Time so all calls appear to be one hour later than actually made. The first page for logs of each number is from the XLS format which opens with a spreadsheet, while the following pages are from the PDF format which cannot be edited. These are kept by the provider with the user being able to export them from the provider.

Only PDF and XLS formats are available and the XLS format has flexibility in layout, viewing, and printing. I've printed them from a spreadsheet into a PDF file, then added them to this document. As previously stated, the times of calls come sorted as is and the user has no control of that as well. The available PDF format that can be exported from magicJack, for whatever reason, renders with banners and other information scattered over and across the logs, with some device, phone number, and account information showing up as well. This is something the user cannot do anything about so in some ways that format is not all too useful. However, with the errors in rendering and without the ability to edit the PDF format, it is an excellent example to show the logs are not altered in any manner whatsoever, and cannot be, which is why I save each format at the same time. Some of the call information ends up being covered over in the PDF format, but the XLS format is just data that can be opened in a spreadsheet, providing clear phone log information. When going through both formats call by call, counting them, or anything else, it is clear the spreadsheet format is the same as the PDF format without any editing. That is why I do save both formats, even with the scattered banners and errors in rendering from the PDF format, it establishes no editing of the phone logs.

It is a bit troublesome with the times of calls being one hour later than actually made, but magicJack servers are in Eastern Daylight Time and this cannot be changed by the user. When a call was made at 12:15 p.m., it was actually made at 11:15 a.m. so that at times is a little more confusing when going through the logs. A person viewing them is looking for a call during the morning that is displayed as afternoon. Also, the times not being sorted make for a little more work as well, but is out of magicJack user control.

These logs do show every call I mentioned earlier in this document is both accurate and true, as are the contents of this document. I've done my very best to be diligent in this process of writing this document and was not what I expected for a comfortable eye recovery after surgery, as all of this has been extremely stressful. I was not able to type at this length until about mid March of 2022 after surgery followed by a laser procedure on my right eye. I would have been finished near the end of April of 2022 but Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, I had water in my basement which was a significant setback. Also, a large portion of this document was prepared and typed without wearing any glasses.

Opticare in East Grand Forks, MN, treating me as they did wasn't the usual experience I've had in the past, as I've been going there since 2004, as did my parents who both passed away not long ago. While Dr. Destin Coles, O.D., was good to me during my eye exam, he did not have my best interests or quality of life as a priority. I could and should have had new glasses after my exam since the lenses could have been updated later, which Eyemart Express did for free. If this was not something he was willing to do for new glasses, he could have referred me to Eyemart Express where the service was excellent. His stated counseling in records never took place and I was left on my own, even after I canceled surgery with Dr. Sczepanski, M.D., with the North Dakota Eye Clinic in Grand Forks, ND. I went to Opticare for a scheduled appointment to use the time for referring me to a different facility and was asked to leave.

Dr. Coles knew I had canceled surgery since I called him on his cell phone while he was butchering chickens, and he told me then to come in Monday and pick up my hard copy prescription, which I did, so I could get new glasses that day. I did that on the previous Friday but Opticare denied me what I needed, denying me the opportunity to at least see better from my left eye and without broken glasses. I was continually asked if I were going to my surgery when I repeatedly said I had canceled. When I did go for my scheduled appointment in hope of getting a different referral, I was told that was for after surgery and I did not go to my surgery. This was on a Wednesday and I again had to reply that no, I had canceled last Friday. Both Opticare staff and Dr. Coles were aware of this but continued to act as if I was uncertain and did not show up for surgery.

There is also mention of me being adopted in records from Opticare by Dr. Coles and that my family history is unknown, which is not true and Dr. Coles is aware of this. When I was asked if cataracts run in my family I informed him my mother had a lens flattening procedure and I informed Dr. Sczepanski of this as well during my eye exam with him, while both Coles and Sczepanski did not seem to be aware of such a procedure which is a refraction procedure. If my family history were unknown it would make no sense for me to inform them of my mother's procedure. Also, Dr. Coles appears to have sent to Dr. Sczepanski a record of a different person, Shirley Hamrick, which was mailed to me via USPS by the North Dakota Eye Clinic. While surgical concerns were presented to me shortly prior to a scheduled surgery, there simply was not an eye plan and I had not been informed of anything such as IOL's or when my left eye would be corrected. The email I sent to my brother and sister clearly display this was very much a major concern for me as I had just finished both surgeries when I wrote them. At that time I had not even requested any records yet, nor obtained the police report or any other information, but had just finished my one week follow up appointment after my left eye surgery.

My surgeon said I would be too far out of balance to only perform surgery on one eye, which was true as the week between surgeries was very difficult and I couldn't imagine what life would have been like being left in a one eye only surgical condition. Colors looked different from each eye which alone was difficult to cope with, but that along with the difference in focus between my two eyes was extremely difficult altogether.

Planning to perform surgery on only my right eye was not to my benefit or quality of life in any way whatsoever, as it would have left me crippled for binocular vision among other things, as eyes tend to function best as a pair. This plan was never revealed to me and I was never told the intent was to keep me wearing bifocals, as I was somewhat in need of trifocals in 2015. It was Dr. Coles who provided me with a mid range pair of glasses at that time, as I had no midpoint in my glasses. Had I not developed a severe cataract problem, my intent was to use trifocals so I did have a midpoint. It was tiring to constantly look far or close, leaning forward very close up at stores to see things a few feet away. Dr. Coles stated the plan was surgery on only one eye and for me to wear bifocals after that. The intended IOL would have provided me with distance vision and perhaps some midpoint, but I would have constantly needed bifocals. My left eye with no midpoint would have needed a trifocal lens, and if that were not possible, then I would have had some midpoint in my right eye and none in my left eye.

To keep me in out of balanced glasses like would not be to my benefit, but would benefit Dr. Coles and Opticare. The plan was to monitor cataracts and wear out of balanced bifocal glasses, which in a few years would have cost much more than performing surgery on both eyes while I suffered tremendously being out of balance and without good binocular vision, and without good vision at all. The Eyhance monofocal IOL was released in early 2021 after two years of testing results, which is designed very much like an EDOF, or enhanced IOL without the clinical technology and with less residual problems of halos and glare. There is a RayOne IOL with a similar concept by another company and these new IOL's produce superior results with one focal point. Enhanced IOL's and multifocal IOL's are also not used by pilots nor approved of by the FAA, as they prefer a single focal point in an IOL set for distance. The TECNIS Eyhance IOL has left me with almost no need for glasses, 20/20 chart reads, good night vision, all with very little halos or other residual problems. Surgery on both eyes was covered by insurance so my IOL cost was only \$998. It makes no sense to enslave me to constant bifocals while being out of balance, suffering with more appointments, as anyone with a serious vision problem would gladly obtain 20/20 vision for \$998. Cost was never an issue to me and Dr. Coles was aware of this as well, knowing I own a home and just bought a Shih Tzu puppy. I was willing to pay and do whatever necessary to get my vision back and it is amazing to have a pair of eyes as I do now for only \$998.

Opticare had an opportunity to help me when I went there for my appointment, but instead wanted me to leave, claiming it was for after surgery and I didn't go to my surgery. When I found a facility myself I went to Opticare and filled out a release of records for my last eye exam to be sent to Fargo, and Opticare did not send my eye exam to that facility which I learned at my first appointment there. Since I had almost immediate regrowth around the lens capsule in my right eye on my new IOL, since it was a subcapsular cataract that was very severe, I had more trips to Fargo but in the end I did everything necessary. Opticare could have been involved in referring me to this facility but instead did not even forward my eye exam there. This is troubling as one would think Dr. Coles and Opticare would enjoy being part of this miraculous success.

My eye exam with Dr. Sczepanski with the North Dakota Eye Clinic was short, hurried, and rather rushed as though moving things along quickly was a priority with staff being both unfriendly and seeming nervous to me. This was not at all like my experience at the facility I went to in Fargo, ND. The exam took much longer and was more thorough while staff was relaxed while being very warm and friendly. While a schedule needs to be maintained, there was no tendency to rush and my right eye had to be numbed in addition to the earlier part of the eye exam due to the cataract being very severe, so it was necessary to see much deeper to the back of my eye. As stated earlier, after my eye exam I met with the surgeon and IOL's were discussed. It was decided I was not one who would cope well with poor night vision or significant halos and glare. I had researched IOL's and desired the Eyhance, and the surgeon said to me, we have these Eyhance, and I pulled out a printed copy of the PDF file on the Eyhance IOL, and the discussion was over. The questionnaire is much more sophisticated with that facility as well, with intent to learn one's personality and the way in which they use their eyes.

After my eye exam at the North Dakota Eye Clinic I met with Dr. Sczepanski briefly and that is when he said there is "this thing" you can get so you don't need glasses after surgery. I asked about it and he said it was not covered by insurance, but would not say what was not covered so I assumed my left eye would not be covered when it was in fact covered by insurance. The only thing not covered was the out of pocket cost of the IOL's, but Dr. Sczepanski would not provide me with any information. I did offer to write him a check and was interested, but his assistant gave him a guick no nod and he then said we better not, we better not, and would not explain why. I assume this was due to the eye plan Dr. Coles had to keep me coming in to monitor cataracts and buying new bifocal glasses. With my left eye only, I later researched IOL's and learned what was meant by "this thing" was multifocal IOL's because they do tend to result in no longer needing glasses at all. TECNIS released the Eyhance and the Synergy, with the latter being their newest multifocal IOL. In testing people reported excellent results for both IOL's with the Synergy leaving people free from glasses and the Eyhance resulting in people at least needing glasses at times. Multifocal IOL's can be more complicated with three focal points, leading to possible increase halos and glare, which I simply did not want to take a chance with and my surgeon agreed. They also require exact placement over the eye pupil while monofocal IOL's do not, and I barely need glasses at all.

While waiting six weeks for surgery and researching IOL's I had hoped there would be a point of discussion on the intended IOL's, and when I asked I was denied any meeting, discussion, or information. While concerns of my health condition did arise and I learned of the intended use of an oxygen apparatus during surgery, I had in fact requested to meet with Dr. Sczepanski, Dr. Coles, and the anesthesiologist, but was told by staff with the North Dakota Eye Clinic, I doubt that's going to happen. The lack of an eye plan and complete denial of information along with either an oxygen apparatus during surgery or drape covering is why I canceled surgery. I was provided with no information other than the use of the oxygen apparatus and completely denied any information or meeting to discuss any concerns. It appeared I was not entitled to plans or any information.

Kristen Vik, R.N., Administrator with the North Dakota Surgery Center, along with the North Dakota Eye Clinic and Dr. Sczepanski, had no reason to generate fraudulent medical notes nor make an entirely false police report. These two facilities appear to be very coordinated and knew I had canceled surgery on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, yet falsely reported to law enforcement I was supposed to have surgery on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Not only had I canceled the previous Friday, but the surgery center in fact removed my from their surgical schedule Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. These facilities treated me in a fascist manner, as I seemed to have no rights as an individual and no individual rights. I was told I would not have to wear a mask but other concerns then arose about an oxygen apparatus and I was never informed of any such thing.

My experience in Fargo, ND, was fantastic and treated me well, nothing like the facilities with Dr. Sczepanski and Kristen Vik. All health concerns were discussed over the phone and I received a call back days later with answers to every question, then made an appointment where I was treated like an individual. My surgeon discussed IOL's with me and informed me this was covered by insurance outside of my out of pocket expense, which I was aware of prior to this. With Sczepanski and Vik I was entitled to no answers even when questions were asked. I was told they use the oxygen apparatus with everybody, people with asthma, everybody, and that was very shocking to me as we are all individuals with different health conditions and different surgeries, yet this was done with everybody. It felt very much like I was to receive my number, ask not questions as they would not be answered anyway, and put this oxygen apparatus on like we do to everybody. When I requested a meeting to discuss all of this and an eye plan for both eyes, I was told I doubt that's going to happen. It seemed whatever IOL would be used was not for me to know and it will be whatever IOL selected without me needing to know as my individual needs appeared for the most part to be entirely irrelevant.

As mentioned previously, not at the last minute but days before my first eye surgery, the facility called me to discuss all medical information in my detailed questionnaire I filled out roughly one week earlier. I was even asked since I cannot wear a mask would I be willing to wear a face shield and I said yes, that it should likely not be a problem. I was provided with a face shield and wore it at all times at the surgery center. They used an eye tent during surgery that did not obstruct my airway and did not provide oxygen, as that is not at all necessary for a cataract surgery. I received two thank you cards one day apart. The first was from all staff and signed by all staff, including the surgeon who gave me a 20/20 pair of eyes. The second was from the nurse I had during my first surgery, as she could not be there for my second surgery but learned it went well as my first surgery did. This was again signed by all staff including my surgeon.

On my last of eight trips to Fargo when picking up my Oakley glasses and backup pair of Oakley sunglasses, I left a thank you letter for all staff including the eye clinic, surgery center, and optical store, as they provided me with the best care and most perfect of all eyewear possible. In that letter I complimented every surgery I've ever had which was six, now eight, with five of these in Grand Forks, ND, and three in Fargo, ND.

Dr. Sczepanski was at the North Dakota Surgery Center when Kristen Vik made the false phone call to dispatch followed by the false police report at the back door of that facility, and is in an executive position over Kristen Vik, so of course he was complicit in this staged event as well as the two fraudulent medical notes he signed. It was also rather silly to call and make this entirely about a mask issue when the surgery center told me since I have asthma that I would not have to wear a mask. This makes no sense as I was suffering and needed surgery badly, so for anyone to say I would not wear a mask if I could, for a short while to get my vision back is ridiculous. There were multiple problems beyond any mask issue with one being the lack of an eye plan for both eyes so they would function as a pair of eyes. I've even read on the North Dakota Eye Clinic website about the monofocal AcrySof IOL and that using these the patient will still need to wear bifocals. While my glasses are of a bifocal nature, there is now no prescription in the top portion and I rarely wear them. I purchased Oakley glasses to have anti glare and I already had my new glasses from Eyemart Express, updated for free after surgery. While anti glare is important for me in protecting my eyes now and I am in my Oakley sunglasses when outside, the fact is my need for prescription glasses today can be met with plastic cheaters one can purchase at a store.

I made eight trips to Fargo, followed all instructions, used all prescription eye drops, taped an eye shield on each eye at night for one week after each surgery, and needed a laser procedure for regrowth on my right eye. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for my follow up appointment after the laser procedure, I still drove to Fargo on old Highway 81 and took a rock to my car's windshield from a truck near Hillsboro, so I will have that replace soon as well. This was a lot to go through and I did it all, treating staff well and was treated very well, and it was a delightful experience. I spent money on eyewear that I found desirable and made all of eight appointments. It is silly for anyone to say that I absolutely "freaked out" over a mask, or make other defamatory and derogatory comments like that, as it was known from the start I cannot wear a mask.

Kristen Vik in the swatting call to dispatch made statements about how I could be out in the parking lot pointing an AK47 out a window, knowing I had no vision in my right eye so I was without binocular vision and had no depth perception, which was also omitted in the dispatch call and police report. She referred to me as a "legit schizophrenic" over messages she had for two days. If these messages were so frightening she should have reported them Monday and not have waited until Tuesday. The surgery center even called me on Monday while already having my two messages, which if were so terrible, law enforcement should have been called Monday and not me, as I had canceled surgery the previous Friday. After canceling surgery I called and went to Opticare to get whatever I needed for new glasses that day, as I needed to see better right away and find a different facility, but was denied my hard copy prescription. I then called Eyemart Express Saturday, called Opticare, then called Dr. Coles on his cell phone in attempt to get new glasses. Monday I did get my prescription, purchased new glasses, and filled out a release of records pertaining to my surgical physical exam to bring with me to a different facility, all of which indicates I had canceled on Friday.

There was no such verbal abuse to any staff as Kristen Vik falsely claimed, as the last communication I had with either the North Dakota Surgery Center and North Dakota Eye Clinic was a phone call I had received, not made, from KMT with Dr. Sczepanski's staff at the eye clinic. This conversation was slightly more than one hour in length about medical concerns and the lack of an eye plan. This woman called me and remained on the phone for more than one hour so if there were verbal abuse, she would have simply hanged up the telephone as I did not call her. Nothing in the fraudulent medical notes is true nor makes any sense, and the defamatory comments Kristen Vik made about me are ridiculous and out of character. When I had no choice but to cancel surgery after suffering for six weeks, it was getting dark outside earlier and I sat up at night in tears thinking what in the world am I going to do. I held my head up and was in good spirits for all of my appointments in Fargo, with often jokingly good humor.

At my last eye appointment after my laser procedure in February, I sat in the chair and the woman told me she needed to look at the back of my eye, so I turned around in the chair, sitting backwards and she chuckled. When I arrived for my laser procedure on the regrowth in my right eye I first saw my O.D. before the procedure with the surgeon and informed the O.D. I developed a new method to eliminate regrowth procedures. I said to tell the surgeon from now on, when removing the lens from a person's eye, spray some of that good weed killer in there before placing the IOL on the eye and the cataract won't regrow around the edges of the new IOL lens capsule. I went through a lot to get my vision back and I got it, so keeping up a good attitude with humor was important to me.

For Kristen Vik to refer to anyone as a "legit schizophrenic" is not something she is even qualified to do, and is both derogatory and extremely defamatory on the public record by calling dispatch and making a false police report. I was adopted at four weeks old by Dale and Henrietta West, the best parents one could have. Mom died after ten years of severe Alzheimer's disease and several other conditions, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, warm in her bed at her home of 60 years with Dad and I present. Mom was nearly 89 ½ years old at the time and the following year Dad died November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, at home as well and just over 89 ½ years old. Dad selected me for his Power of Attorney for all affairs, including Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. If I were schizophrenic I doubt he would have asked me to be his Power of Attorney at all, as it would not make sense.

My birth parents are Linda Roessler, Aurora, CO, and Alan Woodbury, Dickinson, ND, and Linda died in 2012 at the age of 67 from respiratory failure. Alan has retired from his business and is now breeding horses at his ranch. My younger brother was with Linda when she died and he informed me via email. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and is a bright individual. I have three sisters from Alan's family who are all educated as well and are living functional lives. I've met two of the girls and prior to that was in Colorado where I not only met Linda, my brother, but Aunt Leslie who was in an assisted living facility with multiple sclerosis and she was a very positive woman with a warm heart. I have significant knowledge of my family history and it is entirely without any major mental illness of any kind, nor is there any such illness in my adopted family.

Neither Kristen Vik as an R.N. or Mark Sczepanski as an M.D., are qualified in any way to determine someone as schizophrenic, as that requires rigorous evaluation along with sophisticated testing by qualified medical professionals within that field. Vik's use of the phrase "legit schizophrenic" is highly defamatory of me on the public record, but also rather derogatory to say the least, toward those who do suffer from schizophrenia, who would also not be deserving of intent to S.W.A.T. them with a swatting phone call.

The actions of both Vik and Sczepanski were criminal in nature and I believe this was done knowing I would have to go elsewhere and would learn just how smoothly one can get a new pair of 20/20 eyes, covered by insurance. That is exactly what I did and also found out the eye plan was to perform surgery on only my right eye using an older IOL that would keep me wearing bifocals at all times and needing more appointments to monitor my left eye cataract. This would have left me horribly out of balance, more or less crippled from synchronized binocular vision and suffering.

Waiting six weeks as my right eye was swiftly worsening was not soon as described in Dr. Sczepanski's records. I was dizzy and out of balance which caused me to struggle in the most basic of tasks. After finishing a few outside projects I did not even dust or clean a floor in my house, as it was too difficult and I needed to rest before surgery. But after waiting six weeks in my condition, at the last minute I learned there was absolutely no accommodated preparedness for my health conditions. It seemed this was ignored in every way and yet, the North Dakota Eye Clinic and North Dakota Surgery Center did not seem to care, nor were the facilities willing to accommodate me as an individual but instead treat me more like a number. When I was told they use an oxygen apparatus on everybody I felt even more like a number. If I were to come in contact with someone using a scented laundry product or other scented chemicals shortly before surgery with anesthesia, I could become very nauseated quickly and develop a throat tightening or choking type reaction. A change to oxygen and off from it does not make all of this better but can contribute to such problems, while an airway covering could be deadly.

This process was also very abusive and I tend to not tolerate such abuse as I was badly in need of help rather than told I cannot meet with anyone nor even find out what the plan is going to be for me and my pair of eyes. When I am told everybody gets some type of oxygen apparatus over their face during surgery which quite is an over use for cataract surgery, I get the feeling of an abusive process and that I am not of a priority in the process whatsoever. The device is not to exceed the experiment and where I had surgery performed on both eyes, nothing like this was a problem. I also never had any feelings of abuse in Fargo nor the feeling of being treated like an irrelevant number.

When anyone has experienced an abuse such as that, they tend remain more cautious in the future. Today in Israel as part of their defense they have what is referred to as the Samson Option. If Israel is attacked and faces annihilation, they can and may take the world down with them, but never again will they allow themselves to be herded one by one, numbered, and exterminated. I find that very admirable in logic of well being.

Several crimes were committed in this swatting phone call and police report, such as terrorizing in that if someone shares information with any other person about a danger such as a man who could be out front pointing an AK47 out a window, knowing this not to be true, is in fact terrorizing. This was known not to be true and could not have been true as I was nearly blind and had no depth perception. This seemed rather coordinated in that the first dispatcher took this information but did not initiate S.W.A.T. nor share it with the second dispatcher, more or less keeping it shelved for a later time. In needing my last eye exam sent elsewhere, if I had went to the North Dakota Eye Clinic later that day to sign a release of records, that information could have been used then for actual S.W.A.T. protocols and I could have been killed. I did this later but at Opticare, and my eye exam was not sent to the facility in Fargo anyway. Since I was not endangered but could have been, a lower form of reckless endangerment was also committed.

There were also crimes committed of false reporting and criminal character defamation, as well as harassment, not only by Vik and Sczepanski but by Officer Fuka and dispatch staff. The second dispatcher falsely relayed to Officer Fuka prior harassment occurred when they are supposed to dispatch. Rather than dispatch I was already defamed with false information and found basically guilty of a crime when I was at home talking with a friend on the telephone, doing nothing wrong nor had I done nothing wrong.

Officer Richard Fuka called me misrepresenting himself as Officer Fooko, before even entering the false report into the record. He should not have called me at all and likely never made a record of this false report without verification of truth to the information reported. When he saw two messages now more than two days old, he could have and likely should have questioned that, but did not. He was told I was to have surgery that Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, but had he asked to see a schedule he would not seen my name on any surgical schedule as I was removed from that schedule the day before, not to mention I had canceled the previous Friday. If this information couldn't be shared with him, he should not have taken the report as a matter of privacy. He was rather over zealous in taking this false report and contributing to it as well, showing no concern for a person if, supposing to need surgery, perhaps that person needs help. Had he learned I was nearly blind at the time then he could have asked Kristen Vik just what was actually going on, as a man in my condition had difficulty swatting flies. Officer Fuka then wrote defamatory and false information on the report, making reference to me as one with a Habitual Offender Status when I have no criminal convictions on my records anywhere.

Fuka also ran my information through the Department of Motor Vehicles which is only to take place during a traffic stop. This is much like putting a S.W.A.T. style BOLO on me if I had been driving in that area I could have been killed. Where I had my hair trimmed the next day is only blocks from the North Dakota Surgery Center and I did call trying to get in that Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, since I had canceled surgery the previous Friday and bought new glasses on Monday, along with getting releases ready so I could go elsewhere to regain my vision. I was at home during this time on the phone, taking a call from a friend just seconds after Kristen Vik called the dispatch center.

This document is in the form of both a story and complaint. I apologize for any errors typographical in nature or grammatical problems of not grammatical perfection, but simply of errors. I was as diligent as possible in gathering all of the information in this document and in its creation. I was not able to be at a computer for something like this in length of typing and screen time until roughly the middle of March of 2022 due to recovering from surgery on both eyes and the laser procedure in February of 2022.

I would likely have finished by the end of April, 2022, but as I stated earlier with the heavy rain Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, like many neighbors, my basement had water which needed immediate action and was exhausting. I only have things to move from my garage back downstairs at a later time and all is well and dry now.

This document will also be published, as my life was endangered and I do get the feeling I could very well have been killed, as swatting phone calls to dispatch are often intended to get a person killed. I will be sending this document to several agencies and authorities in more than one state for various purposes.

In this process the last communication initiated was the North Dakota Surgery Center having called me on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, reaching my voice mail without leaving a message. During this time they already had my two messages sent over the weekend, but chose to call me anyway. After their call there was a fraudulent medical note generated and signed by Dr. Sczepanski, claiming several attempts were made to reach me and all calls have gone unanswered without voice mail. This was created in attempt to make me appear as a questionable no show who does not answer his phone and does not have voice mail, all of which is false.

The next morning after their initiated contact with me, the swatting call was made to dispatch followed by a false police report. There was a cleverness in the call as well by not using my name while on the phone with dispatch, as though not using my name may tend to limit character defamation on the public record. However, all of this is tied together and on the public record anyway.

All anyone has to do is request reports using my name to obtain this false police report which is available to anyone and on the public record. When reading the report with things like time and date, then one can request the run sheet and transcript of the call from the dispatch center. That is exactly what I did and anyone else can do the same as it is all tied together as one incident on the public record and is extremely defamatory.

One who reads this can see Habitual Offender Status, then "Legit Schizophrenic" who may be pointing an AK47 out a window, omitting I was nearly blind at the time.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. West