

The South Carolina Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of South Carolina Jury Verdicts

September 2026

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

1 SCJVR 9

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Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in South Carolina including court, presiding judge, parties, attorneys and results.

Football Practice Negligence -
A rising high school sophomore going out for football suffered heat stroke and severe complications at his first practice on one of the hottest days ever recorded in the Midlands region – the jury found the school grossly negligent (six separate occurrences) and awarded the plaintiffs \$4.8 million in damages

Stroud-Collins v. Richland County District One, 2024-CP-40-03456

Plaintiff: Chase C. Keibler and Jessica L. Monsall, *Keibler Law Group*, Irmo

Defense: Ashley C. Story and Ryan K. Hicks, *White Story & Hicks*, Columbia

Verdict: \$4,800,000 for plaintiff and finding of six occurrences all less 5% comparative fault

Court: **Richland**

Judge: Daniel Coble

Date: 7-24-26

Jordan Collins, then age 14, and a rising sophomore at Lower Richland High School, went out for football for the first time on 6-13-22. Coaches had seen him around school (he was a big kid at 6'1" and 200 pounds) and suggested he come out for the team.

Ashley Stroud-Collins, individually and on behalf of her minor child, J.S.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Richland County District One,

Defendants.

VERDICT FORM

1. Do you find that the defendant was grossly negligent and that such gross negligence proximately caused the plaintiffs' injuries?
☒ YES – If you answer yes, **GO TO QUESTION 2**
☐ NO – If you answer no, **STOP DELIBERATIONS**
2. Do you find that the plaintiffs were negligent and that such negligence proximately caused his injuries?
☒ YES – If you answer yes, **GO TO QUESTION 3**
☐ NO – If you answer no, **GO TO QUESTION 4**
3. If your answers to **BOTH** question number 1 and question number 2 are **YES**, then answer this question:

Using the combined negligence that proximately caused the plaintiffs' injuries as one hundred percent (100%), what percentage of that negligence is attributable to the plaintiff and what percentage is attributable to the defendant? [The percentage must add up to 100%].

Plaintiffs	<u>5</u> %
Defendant	<u>95</u> %
Total	<u>100</u> %

GO TO QUESTION 4.

The Stroud-Collins v. Richland School District jury verdict on liability

He'd played a little recreational basketball but had athletic aspirations.

Jordan's mother dropped him off for football conditioning at 7:00 a.m that morning. It was the team's first session of the season. While Jordan had undergone a physical, it had not been reviewed by school officials. It was his mother's expectation that

Jordan was just at practice to observe. He'd done no preparation or training in advance of this first practice.

In fact Jordan jumped right in. Jordan spent the first part of the morning in the gym doing weightlifting and other exercises. The head coach was Marlin Taylor. Collins and the rest of the Diamond Hornet football team moved outside to

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C.C.P. &
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Reporter
September 2026
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Workplace Negligence - A forklift operator was at his worksite at a Gaffney packing plant when a trucker making a delivery took off the parking brake – at just that moment the trucker realized his coffee was in the microwave behind him – when the trucker went to get the coffee, the truck entered a low-speed rollaway and struck the forklift – the plaintiff has since treated for an L5-S1 disc injury, a federal jury awarding \$166,000 in compensatory damages and \$300,000 more in punitives predicated on the trucker's history of five accidents in the prior year

Perez v. New Prime,
7:23-4217

Plaintiff: Patrick E. Knie and Justin W. Holloway, *Knie Beatty & Holloway*, Spartanburg and E. Julian Cabra, *Cabra Law Firm*, Greenville
Defense: Brittany T. Bihun, Alan R. Belcher and William J. Blount, *Gordon Rees Scully Masukhani*, Charleston

Verdict: \$466,000 for plaintiff

Federal: **Spartanburg**

Judge: Timothy M. Cain

Date: 7-24-26

Juan Perez, then age 39, was working as a forklift driver for Brown Packing Company at its Gaffney, SC facility. He was in a company parking lot sitting in a Toyota manufactured forklift. His seatbelt was on. At the same time, Elhadji Fall, a trucker working for New Prime, was parked in the parking lot in his tractor-trailer. The rig (tractor and trailer) weighed 71,000 pounds. There was proof the parking lot was on a slight slope.

It is important to note that Fall had a colorful history as a trucker at New Prime. While he had been through

what the company called a rigorous training program (quizzes and mentor-governed driving), it wasn't quite getting through. In the thirteen months leading up to this event, Fall had been involved in five preventable accidents. They were all relatively minor but involved scratches, bumps and brushes with other vehicles as well as striking a pole.

Against this backdrop as Fall sat in his tractor, his microwave beeped. He'd been heating up coffee. At just this moment, Fall let off the parking brake. He then turned around to get the coffee. Gravity took over. The truck began to roll down the slope at slow speed, estimated at some 3-5 mph. [Perez would later recall it was more like 20-30 mph, but this was inconsistent with the video of the incident.] Fall was moving slowly.

As Perez sat in the forklift, the New Prime tractor-trailer rolled into it. Perez was jarred by the incident. He was immediately shaken but did not seek care right away. Why? He thought someone at Brown Packing would do something. When they didn't, Perez drove himself to the ER at Cherokee Medical Center for

apparent soft-tissue symptoms. He was sore the next day and sought treatment again.

Perez has since treated for radiating low-back pain. His leg is numb. He was identified as suffering from an L5-S1 injury and underwent a course of pain management care including an epidural injection. Perez also reports emotional symptoms (anxiety) as well as erectile dysfunction. It was his proof that the combination of his injuries have left him permanently disabled.

Perez sued New Prime directly in federal court and alleged negligence by Fall in letting off the parking brake and then turning his attention from the tractor. He also alleged a conscious disregard for safety by both Fall and the company. Perez advanced three theories to trial, (1) negligence, (2) negligent retention, and (3) negligent supervision and training.

The plaintiff's trucking expert, Michael Connelly, Prosperity, SC, opined that after five accidents, Fall should have been sent for more training and/or terminated. He also argued this accident was preventable and that Fall's average of an accident

Conclusions

The subject accident was preventable on the part of Mr. Fall and Prime. Mr. Fall fell below the Industry standard of care for a commercial driver, and it would have been reasonable and prudent for Prime to have taken actions that were more aggressive than the retesting they chose.

I have rendered opinions herein that are based upon the facts presented and upon my experience, training, and education in the field of transportation. My opinions fall within a reasonable degree of professional certainty.

Please update me if any new evidence, facts, documentation, or information is discovered so that I may amend this report if applicable.

Sincerely;



Michael S. Connelly, CDS
Transshield, Inc.

The conclusions of the plaintiff's trucking expert, Michael Connelly

Notable and Interesting Complaints

Premises Liability - Plaintiff fell in a slippery bathtub

Wimberly v. Sonesta Hilton Head

[2026-CP-07-01691](#)

Plaintiff: Curtis J. Dayson, *Dayson Shalbi*, Columbia

Date: 7-7-26

Court: **Beaufort**

Bar Negligence - Popular musician alleged he was unfairly trespassed by bar staff which led to his arrest and strip search by the local police

Douglas v. Tiki Hunt

[2026-CP-07-01827](#)

Plaintiff: Robert S. Metro, *Bauer & Metro*, Bluffton

Date: 7-22-26

Court: **Beaufort**

Medical Malpractice - ER doctor blamed for failing to make a appendicitis diagnosis

Swanson v. Snowman

[2026-CP-07-01842](#)

Plaintiff: William R. Padget, *HHP Law Group*, Columbia

Date: 7-23-26

Court: **Beaufort**

Pharmacy Negligence - Plaintiff had an argument with a pharmacy tech that led to an assault – plaintiff alleged negligence by pharmacy in employing the tech

Clark v. CVS

[2026-CP-08-02598](#)

Plaintiff: Michael Jordan, *Steinberg Law Firm*, Goose Creek

Date: 7-10-26

Court: **Berkeley**

Premises Liability - Plaintiff injured by a sharp edge on a refrigerated cooler door at Wal-Mart

Adair v. Wal-Mart

[2026-CP-08-02604](#)

Plaintiff: Brandon J. Boyle, *Morgan & Morgan*, North Charleston

Date: 7-30-26

Court: **Berkeley**

Wrongful Death - Plaintiff died of an overdose from a “kratom” product (“Opia” Pink Strawberry 7-OH chewable tablet) he purchased at a vape store

Crago v. Crowfield Vape

[2026-CP-08-02760](#)

Plaintiff: J. Benjamin Myers, *Morgan & Morgan*, North Charleston

Date: 7-26-26

Court: **Berkeley**

Massage Parlor Negligence - Woman sexually assaulted during a professional massage

Doe v. Earthling Studio

[2026-CP-10-04131](#)

Plaintiff: Emma C. Woodham, *Headley Law Firm*, Daniel Island

Date: 7-31-26

Court: **Charleston**

Premises Liability - Plaintiff fell in a slippery hotel bath tub

Hey v. Charleston Riverview Holiday Inn

[2026-CP-10-03825](#)

Plaintiff: Khari Ford, *The Derrick Law Firm*, Conway

Date: 7-17-26

Court: **Charleston**

Premises Liability - Slip and fall at a steakhouse

Randle v. Texas Roadhouse

[2026-CP-10-03744](#)

Plaintiff: Colin J. Gorman, *Shelly Leeke Law Firm*, North Charleston

Date: 7-14-26

Court: **Charleston**

Race Discrimination - Black hotel employee alleged discrimination

Carter v. Moxy Hotel

[2026-CP-10-04066](#)

Plaintiff: Bonnie Travaglio Hunt, *Hunt Law*, Goose Creek

Date: 7-29-26

Court: **Charleston**

Swim Practice Negligence - Student injured at swim practice during a “Water Kill” game by an assistant coach

Long v. The Porter Academy

[2026-CP-10-03992](#)

Plaintiff: Stephen A. Butaitis, Mt. Pleasant

Date: 7-10-26

Court: **Charleston**

Historic South Carolina Verdicts

A look back at older South Carolina jury verdicts (sometimes more than 100 years old) both historical and occasionally historic.

Medical Malpractice - The plaintiff suffered complications after her surgeon severed her common bile duct (rather than her cystic duct) which led to serious complications – she settled with the doctor for \$1,000,000 and went to trial against the hospital arguing the doctor was an actual agent and that the doctor had failed to provide informed consent in that he was undergoing himself a triple bypass three days later – the jury found against the hospital and imposed significant damages, the Supreme Court later reversing finding the doctor was not an agent of the hospital for purposes of informed consent

Newell v. Trident Medical Center, 1999-CP-18-00546

Plaintiff: Timothy W. Bouch and W. Jefferson Leath, Jr., *Leath Bouch & Crawford*, Charleston

Defense: C. Mitchell Brown, *Nelson Mullins*, Columbia

Verdict: \$10,600,000 for plaintiff

Court: **Dorchester**

Judge: Diane S. Goodstein

Date: July 2, 2002

Vivian Newell underwent a gallbladder surgery in 1997 at Columbia Trident Medical Center. It was performed by a surgeon, Dr. Robert Thomas. During the surgery Thomas severed Newell's common bile duct rather than her cystic duct. This led to significant complications including an injury to her liver that

required it to be continuously drained.

Newell sued Thomas and alleged he had failed to provide her informed consent in two ways, (1) about the risk of this injury, and (2) that he was going to have surgery three days later. It was her theory he should have told her that, it all being about her "right to know." Thomas replied that he had so informed Newell. She had not recalled this. In any event Thomas settled before trial for \$1,000,000.

Newell continued to advance a claim against the hospital. It was nuanced. She alleged Thomas was an actual agent of the hospital for purposes of obtaining informed consent. She prevailed at a July 2002 jury trial, the jury finding Thomas was an actual agent and that he'd failed to provide informed consent.

The damages were substantial. Newell was awarded \$3.5 million in actual damages. Her husband (William) took \$100,000 more for his consortium interest. The jury added \$7,000,000 more in punitive damages. Trident Medical appealed.

The South Carolina Supreme Court reversed in May of 2004. In a per curiam opinion it concluded that for purposes of informed consent, Thomas was not an agent of the hospital. The duty to obtain informed consent rested with the doctor.

Truck Negligence - The plaintiff (an adult passenger) was killed and his parents injured in a 1960 car crash on Rte 301 in Marion

Crane v. Standard Trucking

Plaintiff: Ralph Gasque and Bill Seals, Marion

Verdict: \$175,000 for plaintiff

Court: **Marion**

Judge: Steve Griffith

Date: December 2, 1960

James Crane, age 33, was a passenger with his parents on January 20, 1960. Crane was a WWII veteran from East Keansberg, NJ who worked for IBM. The Crane family was making a trip from their New Jersey home to Florida. They traveled south on Rte 302 near Pee Dee, SC.

A Standard Trucking box truck jack-knifed in front of them. The Crane vehicle was sideswiped and went down an embankment. Crane was killed. His father broke his leg and his mother suffered cuts to her face.

The Cranes (the estate of James and his parents) all sued Standard Trucking. The case made its way to trial in ten months. A Marion County jury awarded the plaintiffs (a joint verdict) \$125,000 in compensatory damages and \$50,000 more in punitives. The verdict was not broken down by plaintiff. The \$175,000 result was called the largest ever in Marion County history at the time. That would be nearly \$2,000,000 in 2026 dollars.

Standard Trucking moved for a new trial. In February of 1961 the presiding Judge Griffith (out of Newberry) granted the motion and reduced the award to \$87,500, representing \$62,500 in compensatory damages and \$25,000 more in punitives. The court said in

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