

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

BILLY BRYANT,
v.
BLUE RIBBON LINEN SUPPLY,
and
IDAHO STATE INSURANCE FUND,
Surety,
Defendants.

Claimant,
Employer,
Surety,
Defendants.

**IC 2022-020289
2022-021455
2022-033951**

**FINDINGS OF FACTS,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
AND RECOMMENDATION**

**FILED
APRIL 3, 2026
IDAHO INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION**

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 72-506, the Idaho Industrial Commission assigned the above-entitled matter to Referee John Hummel, who conducted a hearing via Zoom teleconference on February 10, 2026. Claimant, Billy Bryant, was present via Zoom; Paul Augustine, of Boise, represented Employer Blue Ribbon Linen Supply, Inc., and Surety Idaho State Insurance Fund and appeared remotely by Zoom teleconference. The parties presented oral and documentary evidence at the hearing and later submitted briefs. The matter came under advisement on March 17, 2026.

ISSUES

The issues to be resolved as a result of the notice of hearing were as follows:

1. Whether Claimant has complied with the notice limitations set forth in Idaho Code §§ 72-701 through 72-706;
2. Whether Claimant sustained an injury from an accident arising out of and in the course of employment;

3. Whether the condition for which Claimant seeks benefits was caused by the industrial accident;
4. Whether and to what extent Claimant is entitled to the following benefits:
 - a. Medical care;
 - b. Temporary partial and/or temporary total disability benefits (TPD/TTD);
 - c. Permanent partial impairment (PPI); and
 - d. Permanent partial disability (PPD).

CONTENTIONS OF THE PARTIES

Claimant contends that he suffered industrial accidents in the employment of Employer on November 10, 2021, July 9, 2022, and July 22, 2022, resulting in a heart attack and a pulmonary condition. Claimant makes no argument concerning alleged unpaid further Medical Care benefits, Temporary Total and Temporary Partial Disability benefits, Permanent Partial Impairment benefits, and Permanent Partial Disability benefits. Rather, Claimant complains that he suffered medical malpractice, insurance fraud, and generalized unfair treatment and seeks compensation for generalized pain and suffering and for “discombooberation” resulting from “the system.”

Defendants deny that Claimant’s heart attack and pulmonary condition were caused by the alleged industrial accidents of November 10, 2021, July 9, 2022, and July 22, 2022. and therefore, causation has not been established, rendering Claimant ineligible for any workers’ compensation benefits. Defendants further submit that Claimant’s other arguments are irrelevant to Workers’ Compensation Law.

Claimant replies that he did in fact suffer a heart attack which was the indirect result of an injury to his chest wall, which caused a traumatic brain injury (TBI), which in turn caused his

heart attack. He alleges that he told Surety about this condition, yet they denied his claim. Claimant does not claim that he has a doctor's opinion supporting causality of his heart attack in relation to one of his alleged industrial accidents. Claimant admits that he suffered memory loss in the wake of his alleged industrial accidents.

EVIDENCE CONSIDERED

The record in this matter consists of the following:

1. The Industrial Commission legal file;
2. The testimony taken at the hearing dated February 10, 2026; and
3. Joint Exhibits 1 through 20, admitted at the hearing.¹

After having considered the above evidence and the arguments of the parties, the Referee submits the following findings of fact and conclusion of law for review by the Commission.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Claimant's Employment with Employer.** Claimant was employed from April 15, 2021, through December 18, 2023. He was further employed by Employer in a janitorial position on the date of his alleged industrial accidents. His employment ended on or about December 18, 2023, when Employer discharged him. Tr., 18:23-28:23.

2. **Industrial Accidents.** On November 1, 2021, Claimant was injured in an industrial accident in Employer's workplace. Claimant claims that his heart attack and pulmonary condition were caused by the industrial accident. He alleges that he timely reported

¹ Notice is taken of the fact that throughout this proceeding, both before and after the hearing, Claimant submitted for e-filing numerous emails and documents, mostly consisting of medical records, and not in the form of proper pleadings such as motions or calendaring requests. Claimant was advised by Commission staff that such filings were not acceptable because they did not comply with the Rules of Judicial Procedure, specifically JRP § 9(F), which provides that "only those documents which have been admitted as evidence shall be included in the record of proceedings of the case." Claimant also was notified in his *Pro Se* packet and at telephone conferences that he needed to comply with Judicial Rules of Procedure as to the submission of evidence. Consequently, the Referee has not admitted any of Claimant's various submissions as evidence and only admitted Joint Exhibits 1 through 20
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his injury to Employer. On July 9, 2022, Claimant was injured in an industrial accident in Employer's workplace. Claimant claims that his heart attack and pulmonary condition were caused by the industrial accident. On July 22, 2022, Claimant was injured in an industrial accident in Employer's workplace. Claimant claimed that he suffered an injury to his right shoulder. *See*, Answer to Complaint.

3. **Claimant's Lack of Industrial Causation Evidence.** Claimant admitted at hearing that he did not have a doctor's opinion that his alleged industrial accidents on November 21, 2021, July 9, 2022, or July 22, 2022, or any other circumstance in the workplace, caused his alleged heart attack and pulmonary condition. *See*, Tr., 28:24-36:7. The medical records admitted as evidence in the record did contain references to a heart attack and pulmonary condition of Claimant, but they found that Claimant's pulmonary condition was due to smoking and did not find that a heart attack and pulmonary condition were industrially related. *See*, Exhibits Nos. 1 through 20.

4. **Surety's Adjustment of Claimant's Workers' Compensation Claims.** Claimant filed a Workers' Compensation Complaint in this matter on June 25, 2025, regarding three claims as follows, with alleged injury dates of November 1, 2010, July 9, 2022, and July 22, 2022. Claimant also filed two additional complaints alleging duplicate injury dates. *See*, IC 2022-020289, IC No. 2022-021455, and IC No. 2022-0331. In his complaints, Claimant described his problems resulting from the industrial accidents as follows: "Misdiagnosis/Insurance Fraud/Medical Malpractice." *Id.*

5. Defendants filed Answers to the Complaints denying liability because Claimant had not complied with applicable Statutes of Limitations, that the alleged industrial accidents did

to the record.

not occur, and specifically that liability for Claimant's alleged heart attack and pulmonary condition was denied as not resulting from any industrial accident. Surety, however, accepted a shoulder injury that Claimant suffered, for which Claimant received covered medical treatment. *See*, Defendants Answers to the Complaints of November 10, 2021, July 9, 2022, and July 22, 2022.

6. **Medical Treatment.** The record includes extensive medical records concerning treatment of Claimant that occurred prior to any of his alleged injury dates. Claimant received medical treatment and evaluation for numerous issues, including but not limited to, back pain, anxiety, chest pain, and other psychological conditions. *See*, Ex. 1 and Ex. 2.

7. The record contains numerous medical records post-industrial accidents, involving treatment for a number of medical conditions, such cough and COVID. On January 4 and 11, 2022, and again on February 10, 2022, and March 18, 2022, Claimant was seen at the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center for chest pain, shortness of breath, heart palpitations, and arrhythmia. Claimant was found to be in atrial flutter; an echocardiogram revealed no valvular abnormalities. There was nothing in the medical notes that indicated that Claimant was stating that these problems resulted from his workplace or an industrial accident. No medical opinion was stated that Claimant's chest pain, shortness of breath, atrial flutter, heart palpitations, or arrhythmia were related to any industrial accident. *See*, Ex. 3:000166-000246.

8. Claimant was again evaluated at St. Joseph from visit dates on and between July 9, 2022, and July 11, 2026, with complaints of chest pain after he lifted a heavy object at work. The records described this as an industrial injury with injury dates of July 9 and 22, 2022, but no medical provider stated an opinion in the records that Claimant's chest pain was caused by an industrial accident. X-rays were taken of Claimant's chest, and other tests were performed,

including pulmonology studies, however they were normal and showed no indication of a myocardial event. Claimant was diagnosed with severe chronic obstructive lung disease; however, Claimant was advised that this was due to tobacco use, not any industrial accident or workplace occurrence. Claimant was also seen and treated for a wright wrist work injury that occurred on or about August 14, 2024. *See*, Ex. 3: 000247- 00036.

9. At Surety's request, Claimant underwent an independent medical examination performed by Dr. David Hamner, M.D., on July 21, 2023, for an alleged injury date of July 22, 2022. Ex. 7:000701. Nevertheless, the IME report was not included in the record. *Id.*

10. Amanda Moore, NP-C, of Family Medicine at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, evaluated Claimant between July 28, 2022, and April 7, 2025, for a traumatic injury at work on July 22, 2022, in which he had a fall and crash into a pole injuring his right shoulder and back. Claimant had right shoulder pain. Claimant was also evaluated for a traumatic injury at work on July 9, 2022, in which he stated that he had a strain and pain in his chest. Claimant was diagnosed with a strain of the muscle of the chest wall. Claimant was also seen for a workplace injury on November 20, 2011, in which he stated that he had breathing trouble, chest pain and weakness. Claimant was prescribed medications for pain and referrals to Cardiology, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. Claimant also received a shoulder arthrogram injection. Claimant was temporarily restricted to working 2 hours per day and no lifting over 5 pounds. Surety initially denied Claimant treatment for his right shoulder as not being industrially related, however Surety later reversed its denial and allowed coverage for treatment of his right shoulder. Ex. 9.

11. Claimant was evaluated for his right shoulder condition by Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center Physical therapy on August 4, 2022. Ex. 10.

12. Claimant was evaluated for post-concussion syndrome by Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center Occupational Therapy on July 22, 2022. Ex. 11.

13. Claimant was evaluated for his right shoulder injury at work of July 22, 2022, by Elm View Chiropractic Clinic on November 23, 2022. Ex. 13.

14. Dr. Spencer Greendyke, M.D., evaluated Claimant on May 30, 2023, for the workplace injury to his right shoulder. Claimant was restricted to lifting no more than 25 pounds. Ex. 15.

15. Dr. DeWayne Weaver, M.D., evaluated Claimant for right shoulder pain on July 24, 2023. An MRI was unremarkable except for a slap tear. Dr. Weaver opined that Claimant's problem was likely stemming from his back rather than his right shoulder. He also opined that Claimant should be considered for a functional capacity examination (FCE) as recommended in an IME. Ex. 18.

16. Claimant received an evaluation at the Spokane Heart Institute for complaints of chest pain for a second opinion. No significant valvular disease was noted. It was also noted that Claimant had a diagnosis of delusional disorder. Ex. 19.

17. Summit Rehabilitation Services evaluated Claimant for an FCE on September 11, 2023, for his right shoulder sprain/injury. The FCE found that Claimant was capable of LIGHT-MEDIUM physical demand capacity work for 8 hours per day. Claimant demonstrated symptom/disability exaggeration behavior on the FCE, and it was concluded that he had a significant nonorganic component to his pain. Ex. 20.

DISCUSSION AND FURTHER FINDINGS

18. The provisions of the Idaho Workers' Compensation Law are to be liberally construed in favor of the employee. *Haldiman v. American Fine Foods*, 117 Idaho 955, 956, 793

P.2d 187, 188 (1990). The humane purposes which it serves leave no room for narrow, technical construction. *Ogden v. Thompson*, 128 Idaho 87, 88, 910 P.2d 759, 760 (1996). Facts, however, need not be construed liberally in favor of the worker when evidence is conflicting. *Aldrich v. Lamb-Weston, Inc.*, 122 Idaho 361, 363, 834 P.2d 878, 880 (1992).

19. **Causation.** Claimant bears the burden of proving that the condition for which compensation is sought is causally related to an industrial accident. *Callantine v. Blue Ribbon Supply*, 103 Idaho 734, 653 P.2d 455 (1982). There must be medical testimony supporting the claim for compensation to a reasonable degree of medical probability. A claimant is required to establish a probable, not merely a possible, connection between cause and effect to support his contention. *Dean v. Dravo Corporation*, 95 Idaho 958, 560-61, 511 P.2d 1334, 1336-37 (1973).

20. No special formula is necessary when medical opinion evidence plainly and unequivocally conveys a doctor's conviction that the events of an industrial accident and injury are causally related. *Paulson v. Idaho Forest Industries, Inc.*, 99 Idaho 896, 901, 591 P.2d 143, 148 (1979). While a temporal relationship is always required to support a finding of causation between an accident and the injury, the existence of a temporal relationship alone, in the absence of substantive medical evidence establishing causation, is insufficient to satisfy Claimant's burden of proof. *Swain v. Data Dispatch, Inc.* IIC 2005-528388 (February 24, 2012).

21. Defendants accepted Claimant's Claim for benefits related to his right shoulder and he received medical treatment for it as the medical records show. Nevertheless, Claimant did not present documentary evidence at hearing from a physician that related the alleged industrial accidents on 21, 2021, July 9, 2022, and July 22, 2022, to any heart attack or pulmonary condition. Furthermore, the medical records admitted into the record do not establish industrial causation for Claimant's heart attack and pulmonary condition. Therefore, causation has not been

established as to his heart attack and pulmonary condition, and Claimant has failed to sustain his burden of proof on industrial causation. It should also be noted that the Referee specifically advised Claimant prior to hearing that he had the burden of proof in establishing causation and Claimant's *Pro Se* packet advised him of his duty to prove causation, however Claimant failed to submit sufficient proof of his claims at hearing.

22. Claimant also admits that he suffered memory loss after his alleged industrial accidents, which casts doubt upon the veracity of his claims and causality.

23. The balance of Claimant's claims concerns alleged medical malpractice, insurance fraud, generalized unfair treatment by Employer and his medical providers, a claim for generalized pain and suffering damages, and compensation for "discombooberation" caused by "the system." *See, e.g.*, Claimant's Opening Brief filed by email on February 22, 2022, *and* Tr., 13:3-21. All of these claims, however, are not relevant to or covered under Idaho Workers' Compensation Law. Claimant's remedies for these claims lies in civil court, not in administrative proceedings conducted by the Idaho Industrial Commission, rendering these claims as also non-industrially related.

24. The Referee sympathizes with Claimant for what he perceives as unjust treatment and wishes him well, however Claimant should understand that there is no available administrative remedy for Claimant at the Idaho Industrial Commission.

25. The record further establishes that Claimant's medical conditions had a substantial component of nonorganic origin, symptom exaggeration, and delusional syndrome. These circumstances are not related to any compensable industrial injury.

26. Claimant is not entitled to workers' compensation benefits for his heart attack and pulmonary condition, and miscellaneous other claims, because he has not proven causation, his

other claims are not relevant to or covered under Idaho Workers' Compensation Law, and Claimant's symptoms are the result of nonorganic origin, symptom exaggeration, and delusional syndrome.

27. **Other Issues Moot.** Because Claimant has failed to establish causation, all other issues, including notice, medical care, temporary disability benefits, permanent partial impairment, and permanent partial disability, are moot and there is no need to resolve them.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

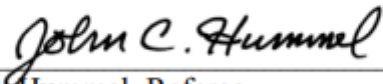
1. Causation has not been established for Claimant's heart condition, pulmonary condition and other miscellaneous conditions due to the industrial accidents on November 10, 2021, July 9, 2022, and July 22, 2022.
2. All other issues are moot.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Referee recommends that the Commission adopt such findings and conclusions as its own and issue an appropriate final order.

DATED this 17th day of March, 2026.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION



John C. Hummel, Referee

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 3rd day of April, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND RECOMMENDATION** was served by regular United States Mail and email upon each of the following:

BILLY BRYANT



PAUL J. AUGUSTINE
AUGUSTINE LAW OFFICES, PLLC
1004 W. FORT STREET
BOISE, ID 83702
pja@augustinelaw.com

ka

Kate Armon

