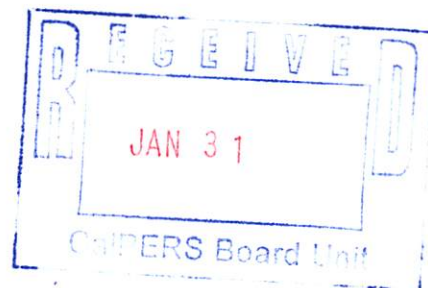


**ATTACHMENT C**  
**RESPONDENT(S) ARGUMENT(S)**

Respondent's Argument

To whom it may concern



My name is Heidi Lagache. I have been denied my industrial disability and this is my letter stating why I disagree with the decision. I was injured while working at High Desert State Prison in Susanville CA on April 4, 2014 when an iron door weighing around 300 lbs slammed closed on my right wrist. I have since seen several doctors and specialists and the overall response to any further actions has been that there is nothing more to be done to heal my hand/wrist. I have been declared permanent stationary by my GP and by the QME doctor assigned to me by worker's comp, Dr. Morris. Dr. Morris placed me at 26% disabled after I saw him on Dec. 1, 2016. I have included his findings as well as a letter from my doctor, Dr. Beams.

The injury to my hand has affected my life in a whole and has made many things I used to do without though extremely difficult. While I am advised by doctors to use my hand as much as I can, I am restricted to no more than 5 lbs of weight and at times even that is difficult. Even going to the store for groceries can be difficult. I am forced to keep my keys in my right jeans pocket so when I carry groceries in my left hand I can still access them. While it hurts to reach in the pocket at times it is the lesser of two evils so to speak as carrying the bags would hurt more. I try to use my hand like advised but even opening doors can hurt, but I still try to do it.

I am unable to write easily or even type without pain. I am not even able to type this letter out and am having to have my husband type what I say for me. I am unable to go into an office jobs because of this fact. I cannot return to my job as I am required to be able to lift more than 50 lbs. When inmates are on lockdown and I have no workers, I am required to do the work they would do and this involved heavy lifting I am no longer able to do like I could when hired.

Enclosed is the letter from Dr. Beams and the findings of Doctor Morris. If there is anything more needed from me, please feel free to call me anytime at \_\_\_\_\_ You may speak with me or my husband, Ryan Lagache. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Heidi Lagache

**Jay M Beams M.D Inc.**

**701 Nevada Street**

**Susanville CA 96130**

**Phone (530)257-4137 Fax (530)257-4005**

**January 25, 2017**

**RE: Heidi Lagache**

**Claim # 05982998**

**D.O.I. 04/04/2014**

**To whom it may concern:**

**Mrs. Lagache has a worker's comp claim for right wrist and hand pain. A door at work that weighs about 300 pounds crushed her right wrist and hand. She has had a stellate ganglion block but had a reaction to this and could not finish the 3 injections. The injection gave her neck pain every time she moved her neck, she had severe pain. She had cortisone injection in her wrist as well. This froze up her hand to where she could not use it and it did her no good. She has had a nerve conduction study. She saw Dr. Uppal in the past. She has had other physicians as well but nothing else has been done. She says it hurts to bend wrist side to side or front to back. She has no feeling in her thumb to touch or with hot or cold. She drops things with the right hand all the time. She has pain upon palpation. She has intermittent pain which radiates into her arm up to her elbow, usually when she tries to grab objects. She has had physical therapy with no improvement. She had a QME and he recommended exploratory hand surgery and she has seen Dr. Barakat, Dr. Tortosa, and Dr. Henrichen. They all said they would refuse the surgery on her because it would cause more injury to her hand. She cannot make a fist with her right hand, she can only close her hand about halfway due to pain. The MRI shows that the flexor tendons are swollen and inflamed along with the medial nerve. The grip on her right hand, she has hardly ant strength and when she tries to grip her fingers fasciculate. She has been given the diagnosis of RSD or complex pain syndrome. Patient cannot type, write, or lift over 5 pounds with her right hand.**

**Patient is disable from doing her job, I feel she needs to be retrained. If you have any questions please feel free to call my office at the number listed above.**

**Thank you,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay M Beams M.D.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

**Jay M Beams M.D.**

The patient was employed as a Correctional Supervising Cook at High Desert State Prison for only 4 months at the time of her injury. She has been on temporary total disability since the date of injury, 4/4/14.

She sustained an industrial injury to her right wrist in 1999 while employed at Walmart. She reports she was given a diagnosis of right wrist tendinitis, she only missed 3 days of work and her symptoms resolved after approximately 1 year. She states that she did not receive any permanent disability from this injury.

The patient's past medical history is notable for asthma, psoriasis, right heel pain, cholecystitis, left little finger fracture in a motor vehicle accident December 2009 and neck pain after a motor vehicle accident in 2011.

Physical examination revealed tenderness of the right wrist and thumb, diminished right wrist range of motion, full passive motion of her right thumb and fingers, normal vascular exam, positive Phalen's and diminished light touch and 2-point discrimination in the right median distribution. The patient had no abnormal vasomotor, sudomotor or trophic changes on examination to make a diagnosis of CRPS I.

Initial x-rays of the right hand and forearm 4/4/14 did not reveal fractures, dislocations or other abnormalities. Right wrist MRI 5/1/14 revealed tenosynovitis of the second extensor compartment and findings suggestive of median nerve injury and carpal tunnel syndrome.

EMG/NCV of the right upper extremity 6/23/14 revealed evidence for right median nerve injury with mild carpal tunnel syndrome.

The patient has the following current diagnoses:

1. Right wrist and hand crush injury. ICD-10: S67.31
2. Right median nerve crush injury and posttraumatic carpal tunnel syndrome. ICD-10: S64.11, G56.01
3. No clinical evidence of CRPS I.

In my opinion, the patient is now permanent and stationary for her right wrist and hand industrial injury of 4/4/2014. The reason for the permanent and stationary

determination is that the patient is over 2 years since the time of her injury, surgical consultants are reluctant to explore her median nerve, and conservative approaches have been tried with minimal success. The patient has reached maximum medical improvement.

The patient has 19% whole person impairment to the right wrist as a result of right wrist range of motion loss and median nerve impairment.

The patient's right wrist and hand injury is industrial on 4/4/2014.

The patient did have a prior right wrist industrial injury while employed at Walmart in 1999. She reports she recovered completely without residuals or permanent disability. It does not appear that apportionment is indicated in this case.

The patient will not be able to return to her previous level of employment, job displacement benefit should be considered.

I would make the following recommendations for future medical care:

1. The patient should be authorized for 4 treating physician appointments per year for evaluation and medication management.
2. The patient should continue a dedicated home exercise program of range of motion and strengthening of the right wrist and hand.
3. The patient may require pain medicine as determined by her primary treating physician.
4. The patient did not benefit from wrist steroid injections or stellate ganglion blocks, I would not recommend further injection therapy.
5. The patient should be authorized for a right carpal tunnel release if requested by a treating orthopedic surgeon.

The patient has permanent work restrictions on repetitive right-hand use and lifting greater than 5 pounds.

RE: LAGACHE, HEIDI

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Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate this examinee. If I may be of additional assistance please correspond with me, in writing, at 8221 N. Fresno St, Fresno, Ca. 93720.

**ATTESTATION**

I, Stephen Morris, M.D., personally took the examinee's history, reviewed the medical records, performed the physical examination, and dictated this report. All of the opinions expressed in the report are mine." In the preparation of the report Roselyn Santos, MT, arranged all of the records in chronological order and prepared a list and summary of records for my review. I personally then reviewed all of the available medical records and the summary prior to using all or parts of it in the preparation of my report. The entire report was then personally reviewed by me and signed on the date and county as indicated.

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that I have not violated Labor Code Section 139.3 and have not offered, delivered, received or accepted any rebate, refund, commission, preference, patronage, dividend, discount or other consideration for any referral for examination or evaluation by a physician.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this report and its attachments, if any, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, except as to information that I have indicated I received from others. As to that information, I declare under penalty of perjury that the information accurately describes the information provided to me and, except as noted herein, that I believe it to be true.

Sincerely,



Stephen Morris, M.D.  
Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon

Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016 in Butte County in the State of California.