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IN THE ASBESTOS CLAIMS COURT FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN RE ASBESTOS LITIGATION,

Consolidated Cases

Cause No. AC 17-0694

NON-PARTIES CARD CLINIC'S AND CARD FOUNDATION'S MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM ORDER AND BRIEF IN SUPPORT

Applicable to All Cases

MOTION

This Court's Order of September 26, 2018 orders non-parties the Center for Asbestos

Related Disease ("CARD") Clinic and the CARD Foundation to respond to Defendants' various

subpoena duces tecum topics within 14 days, by October 10, 2018. CARD Clinic now seeks

relief from the Court's Order because it is not possible for CARD Clinic to comply with the

terms of the Court's Order.

FILED

09/28/2018

Ed Smith CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AC 17-0694

BRIEF IN SUPPORT

The Court's original order partially quashing Defendants' subpoenas allowed Defendants discovery of the CARD Foundation on two categories of documents and testimony, and discovery of the CARD Clinic on 24 categories of documents and 29 topics of testimony. Defendants then moved to seek unlimited discovery on all 75 categories of documents identified in their two Amended Subpoena Deuces Tecum and all 77 topics of testimony identified in their two Amended 30(b)(6) Subpoenas. The Court's Order of September 26, 2018 allows Defendants one additional category of discovery of the CARD Foundation and 16 additional categories of discovery of the CARD Clinic. In sum, the Court has ruled that CARD Foundation must respond to three of 21 categories, and CARD Clinic must respond to 40 of 54 categories sought by Defendants.

The Court's Order of September 26, 2018 rules that CARD Clinic must respond to the various subpoena topics within 14 days, that is, by October 10. It will not be possible for the CARD Clinic to meet this Court-imposed deadline, therefore the CARD Clinic seeks relief from the Court's Order, as explained below.

Categories #1 & #2

Categories #1 and #2 require the CARD Clinic to provide CARD Clinic's complete medical chart for all plaintiffs, as well as films and outside reads. The CARD Clinic has not included outside reads when providing medical charts in the past. However, eleven members of the CARD Clinic staff have been drawn away from their normal tasks to identify plaintiffs' outside reads and produce them to Defendants. It took over 50 hours of staff time to produce outside reads for about 380 plaintiffs involved in an upcoming settlement. Staff come to work before hours and stay after hours to work on producing the outside reads, and CARD Clinic anticipates that it will be able to produce all the remaining outside reads by October 19. Moreover, in response to the Court's Order, CARD Clinic is producing its screening database and pulmonary function test database.

In her Declaration of May 29, 2018, in support of CARD Clinic and CARD Foundation's motion to quash, Tracy McNew declared that it would take CARD Clinic at least four or months to produce medical charts for all the plaintiffs. Declaration of Tracy McNew, May 29, 2018, ¶11. It is not possible for the CARD Clinic to produce these complete medical charts by October 10. Moreover, the CARD Clinic has already produced most, if not all, of the plaintiffs' medical charts to parties already, and it would be duplicative to produce these charts again. To that end, CARD Clinic has requested parties to inform CARD Clinic with the names of the plaintiffs for whom the parties do not already have the CARD Clinic medical charts in an attempt to streamline and expedite production as much as possible, and not to duplicate the production that has already taken place "through the regular discovery process," as the Court has noted.

The remaining issue with Categories #1 and #2 is production of x-rays and CT scans. CARD Clinic uses a PACScube DatCard Rimage 3410 Professional to transfer images on the PACS system. Copying one CT scan, for example, can take about 30-45 minutes on this machine. The PACScube machine is typically in use during the normal course of CARD Clinic's business for time-sensitive patient care, so the PACScube is not available at all times for copying images to respond to the subpoena. Importantly, copying images to respond to the subpoena will cause the CARD Clinic to exceed the hours and wear covered under CARD Clinic's PACScube maintenance contract. No x-rays or CT scans are made at the CARD Clinic, and CARD Clinic encourages parties to obtain x-rays and CTs from the place of the scan's origin for more complete film records in case CARD Clinic does not order all scans taken by the third-party provider, such the Kalispell Regional Medical Center. At the rate CARD Clinic is able to transfer image files on the PACS system, production of x-rays and CT scans will take several months. To that end, CARD Clinic has requested parties to inform CARD Clinic with the names of the plaintiffs for whom the parties do not already have x-rays and CT scans from the third-party providers in order to streamline production of these images and avoid duplication.

CARD Clinic respectfully asks the Court for an extension of six months to respond to Categories #1 and #2, or in the alternative allow CARD Clinic to provide medical charts "through the regular discovery process."

Category #3

Category #3 seeks invoices for all services for all plaintiffs. CARD Clinic invoices screening to ATSDR through an online system, and can produce those invoices. CARD has also sent invoices for some research projects, and can produce those invoices as well. For invoices CARD Clinic has sent to insurance companies and directly to individuals, however, responding to this topic is more problematic and will require a significant investment of staff time. CARD Clinic staff anticipate that responding to this part of category #3 will require several months of fulltime work to go through archived and stored invoices and associating them with plaintiffs. CARD Clinic staff are working with the practice management software vendor to find a better way to respond to this request, but no better solutions have been identified to date.

CARD Clinic respectfully asks the Court for an extension of six months to respond to Category #3, or, in the alternative, to relieve CARD Clinic of the obligation of providing invoices to insurance companies and individuals.

Other Categories

For the remaining categories, CARD Clinic believes that it can comply with the Court's October 10 deadline, either because CARD Clinic has already produced all responsive documents or because CARD Clinic believes that it has the resources to meet the October 10 deadline imposed by the Court.

Conclusion

While CARD Clinic has already dedicated over 210 staff hours to providing documents in response to Defendants' subpoenas, the clinic remains open and CARD Clinic employees have daily workloads for which each employee was hired. Staff who have been tasked with responding to the subpoenas have to work around the clinic's regular business for access to copiers/scanners and the PACS system. Many CARD Clinic projects that are not top priorities have been delayed so staff can produce documents for the subpoena. Staff members are already working extended hours to produce the outside reads and morale has become a concern. Lastly, grant funding, which makes up over 75% of CARD Clinic's budget, cannot be used to produce these documents, and there has been no guarantee of reimbursement for staff time or legal fees, so the additional cost burden of responding to these subpoenas on the clinic is significant.

Defendants here are using the discovery processes in this Court to attempt to undermine the CARD Clinic with the apparent hope of developing other venues to attack and shut down the CARD Clinic as a litigation tactic to bolster their position in the cases before this Court. In their Motion for Additional Time to Conduct Discovery on Disqualification, Defendants stated plainly that they are seeking information from CARD Clinic related to Medicare enrollments and payments. Defendants are attempting to incite allegations of fraud against the CARD Clinic, and Defendants have apparently attempted to instigate federal investigations of the CARD Clinic, including attempting to provoke both the EPA and the FBI into investigating the CARD Clinic with the apparent aim of undermining the credibility of any diagnoses of asbestos-related diseases of Libby residents. *See* Exhibit 1, excerpts of Dr. Steven Becker's file at Becker_Corr 234-243; 320; 335. The CARD Clinic is not a party to this lawsuit or any other litigation, and asks this Court not to countenance the improper use of civil discovery employed by Defendants against CARD Clinic before this Court.

CARD Clinic will work through responding to the categories allowed in the Court's Order of September 26, 2018, but it is physically impossible for CARD Clinic to comply with the deadline set in the Court's Order, and therefore asks for relief from the Court's Order as delineated above.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of September, 2018.

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