

Legal Timeline — Workers' Compensation Claim

DWC Claim #25218944 | DOI: 01/30/2025

Pre-Injury Baseline

Date	Event	Evidence
Dec 11, 2020	Abdomen/pelvis CT scan (carrier's basis for "pre-existing" defense)	Carrier records
Dec 23, 2024	BASELINE MRI ordered by Dr. Khoury (Infectious Disease) to monitor osteomyelitis. Findings: lordosis maintained, L5 fracture at 20% height loss, NO retrolisthesis, NO bone marrow edema	03-MRI-Comparison/Dec2024_Baseline_MRI.PDF

Injury Event

Date	Event	Evidence
Jan 30, 2025	WORKPLACE FALL — Tripped on wet floor mat during fire drill at Westbury High School. School nurse examined, sent back to teach. No incident report filed by HISD. No DWC-1 filed.	No employer documentation exists (DWC-154 complaint addresses this)
Feb 2025 (5 weeks)	Claimant continued teaching in pain. No medical treatment sought (unaware of WC rights).	—

Hospitalization & Diagnosis

Date	Event	Evidence
Mar 2, 2025	Collapsed at work. Admitted to Memorial Hermann TMC.	04-Medical-Evidence/Memorial_Hermann_Hospital_Records.pdf
Mar 3, 2025	POST-FALL MRI — NEW findings: retrolisthesis at L3-L4, fracture progression to 30% height loss, ACUTE bone marrow edema at L5. ICD-10: M48.56XA ("initial encounter" = new injury).	03-MRI-Comparison/Mar2025_PostFall_MRI.pdf
Mar 2-7, 2025	Hospitalized. Neurosurgery recommended L5 corpectomy with L3-pelvis posterior fusion.	04-Medical-Evidence/

Reporting & Complaints

Date	Event	Evidence
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Mar 14, 2025	Filed DWC-154 complaints (PRI# 418963, 418964): employer failed to report injury, failed to inform claimant of WC rights.	05-DWC-Filings/DWC-154_Complaint*.pdf
Mar 26, 2025	DWC sent HISD an "education letter" in response to complaints.	Gmail (to be added)
2025 (date TBD)	Carrier (CCMSI) denied claim — basis: "pre-existing" per 2020 CT. Carrier has NOT addressed Dec 2024 baseline MRI.	—

Procedural History

Date	Event	Evidence
Dec 16, 2025	ClaimAssist (Memorial Hermann subclaimant) filed DWC-045 requesting BRC.	05-DWC-Filings/DWC-45_Subclaimant_Filing.pdf
Jan 21, 2026	BRC hearing held. One-month continuance granted to gather evidence.	—
Feb 4, 2026	Causation letter requests sent to Dr. Rodriguez (PCP) and Dr. Khoury (ID specialist).	Gmail records
Feb 11, 2026	New MRI completed at Memorial Diagnostic (Dr. Hwang referral). Results pending.	Portal
Feb 26, 2026	CONTINUED BRC HEARING — 10:45 AM Central	Zoom: tdi-texas-gov.zoomgov.com, Meeting ID: 160 0970 1721

Disputed Issue

Extent of injury. Carrier contends all findings are pre-existing. Claimant contends the Dec 23, 2024 MRI baseline — taken 38 days before the fall — proves retrolisthesis and bone marrow edema are acute findings caused by the Jan 30, 2025 workplace fall.

Key Contacts

Role	Name	Contact
Claimant	Steve Kaminczak	979-436-5969 / kaminczak@gmail.com
OIEC Ombudsman	Belinda Person	belinda.person@oiec.texas.gov
Carrier	CCMSI (HISD self-insured)	PO Box 3309, Bellaire TX 77402
Billing Agent	Ethos	novarebr@ethosrisk.com / 866-532-1929
PCP	Dr. Julio Rodriguez	rodriguezclinic2@gmail.com
ID Specialist	Dr. Khoury	832-410-1464

Verified against DWC-45 filing, DWC-154 complaints, and medical records. DOI of 01/30/2025 confirmed per DWC-45.