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STATE OF MAINE

LINCOLN COUNTY, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT

CIVIL ACTION

DOCKET NO. WISSC-RE-2018-00008

LEOL CORSON,
Plaintiff
VS.
JACOB AND JILL BECK,
Defendants

TESTIMONY OF KERSTIN CORSON

OCTOBER 29, 2019
WISCASSET, MAINE

BEFORE:

THE HONORABLE BRUCE MALLONEE

APPEARANCES:

ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:
DENIS CULLEY, ESQ.

ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANTS:
JONATHAN DAVIS, ESQ.

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I N D E X

WITNESS DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RECROSS

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

Kerstin Corson 3 9 16



1 (This matter came for hearing before The Honorable Bruce
2 Mallonee of the Lincoln County Superior Court, Wiscasset,
3 Maine, on October 29, 2019 at 8:44 a.m.)

4 KERSTIN CORSON, HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AS
5 FOLLOWS:

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. CULLEY:

7 Q Good morning, Kerstin. Can you hear me?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. If at some point you can't, just tell me and I
10 will -- I will speak louder.

11 A Okay.

12 Q Okay. Can you please say your name and spell it for
13 the record?

14 A Kerstin K-E-R-S-T-I-N, Corson C-O-R-S-O-N.

15 Q So that's K-I-R-S-T-E-N. No.

16 A No, K-E-R-S-T-I-N. It's spelled Kerstin.

17 THE COURT: All right. You've spelled it twice now and I
18 missed it. I was thinking one thing and you said another.
19 Would you spell your first name one more time, please?

20 THE WITNESS: I will. K-E-R-S-T-I-N.

21 THE COURT: Okay. I have it. Thank you.

22 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

23 BY MR. CULLEY:

24 Q Thank you, Kerstin. Kerstin, what is your occupation?

25 A My occupation is I am an environmental services at



1 Cove's Edge. And what it is is housekeeping and
2 laundry at a nursing facility.

3 Q And where is the facility?

4 A It is in Damariscotta, Maine.

5 Q Okay. And what is your relation to Leol Corson?

6 A He is my father-in-law.

7 Q Before December of 2016, where did you live?

8 A I lived in Howland, Maine.

9 Q Okay. And what sort of work did you do up there?

10 A I worked for Cummings Health Care, same thing,
11 housekeeping.

12 Q Yeah. So you worked with mostly elderly patients?

13 A That is correct.

14 Q Okay. Do you own a home?

15 A Yes, I do.

16 Q Where is it?

17 A It's in Howland, Maine.

18 Q Okay. When did you move to Bristol, Maine?

19 A December 22nd, 2016.

20 Q And where did you move to?

21 A I moved to 1913 Bristol Road, Bristol, Maine to live
22 with Leol Corson, my father-in-law. My husband and
23 I -- Jason Corson and I did.

24 Q And why did you move there?

25 A Because we were asked by Jill and Jake that if we would



1 consider living with him, because they had prior
2 commitments somewhere else, and they could not move in
3 with him.

4 Q So were you asked to move in and care for him?

5 A Yes, I was.

6 Q Okay. And did you, in fact, care for Leol Corson?

7 A Yes, I did.

8 Q And how long did you care for him for?

9 A Like I said, December 22nd up until now.

10 Q So you're still caring for him now?

11 A Yes, I am.

12 Q Where is that occurring?

13 A It is at 58 Pemaquid Villa, Pemaquid, Maine.

14 Q And is that a mobile home park?

15 A Yes, it is.

16 Q Okay. So during the time you lived with Leol at 1913
17 Bristol Road, what care did you provide to Leol?

18 A Housekeeping, cleaning, doing some laundry, everything
19 that I guess a normal common person would do. The only
20 thing I did not do was take care of his meds.

21 Q Yeah. So did you help him get his medications, take
22 him to get them?

23 A Yes, I did.

24 Q Did you take him to doctor's appointments?

25 A Yes, I did.



1 Q Is it your contention that you lived with Leol because
2 he could not live alone?

3 A No, he could not live alone, no.

4 Q In your work at Cove's Edge, what were you paid by the
5 hour?

6 A Right now I'm paid \$12 an hour.

7 Q Okay. So when you're not working at Cove's Edge
8 what -- well, back in 2016 when you weren't working at
9 Cove's Edge back in the fall/winter 2016 and the times
10 at 1913 Bristol Road -- when you weren't working at
11 Cove's Edge and you were home, were you caring for Leol
12 Corson?

13 A Yes, I was.

14 Q Were you responsible for him?

15 A Yes, I was.

16 Q I'm going to -- I'm going to do a little math; just a
17 little simple calculation here. Your days, both before
18 you went to work and after you went to work, is it fair
19 to say you were putting at least eight hours of care
20 and responsibility for Leol Corson?

21 A I would say 8 hours to 12 hours of care.

22 Q Okay. At eight hours that seems to be \$96 a day; does
23 that make sense?

24 A Yes, it does.

25 Q The value of your labor. Now, did you get weekends off



1 from caring for Leol?

2 A No.

3 Q No.

4 A No.

5 Q Is it -- might it be true that on weekends you might
6 spend even more time caring for Leol?

7 MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, if I may, I'd ask for some
8 instructions to counsel to attempt to not lead the client --
9 the witness quite so much. I don't have a problem with
10 leading on preliminary matters, but we're getting into some
11 substantive issues of the case.

12 THE COURT: I'll sustain the objection to the pending
13 question.

14 MR. CULLEY: Sure.

15 BY MR. CULLEY:

16 Q Okay. So you would say \$8 an hour -- I'm sorry, \$12 an
17 hour times eight hours. We agreed on \$96. So can you
18 multiply in your head 30 times 96?

19 A No, no, no. I'm not a good mathematics person.

20 Q Okay. Well, I'll leave it out there that 30 times 96
21 would equal a certain number; is that fair enough?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Okay. All right. Did Jake or Jill Beck ever pay you?

24 A No.

25 Q Did Leol Carson ever pay you?



1 A No.

2 Q Did anybody else pay you for your time and care taking
3 care of Leol Corson?

4 A No.

5 Q Now, you didn't pay rent to live in that house, did
6 you?

7 A No, I did not.

8 Q Yeah. Do you feel you were getting, you know, a good
9 deal, free ride kind of thing?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q And you feel that your care for Leol paid -- more than
12 compensated for your rent or how do you feel about your
13 care for Leol versus rent?

14 A Yeah, it -- I thought it was fair, yes.

15 Q Okay. Did your husband also provide care for Leol
16 Corson?

17 A Yes, he did.

18 Q And what sort of care did he provide? What did he do?

19 A He also cooks too. He doesn't clean. I did that.
20 He'd also take him places he needed to go.

21 Q Yup.

22 A You know, like, to pay his bills or if he's got a
23 doctor's appointment, he'd take him there too if I
24 couldn't do it.

25 Q Who did the heavier jobs around the house, the



1 shoveling that kind of thing?

2 A My husband did, Jason.

3 Q Yeah. Could Leol do that sort of thing?

4 A Not really, no.

5 Q Yeah. And to your knowledge, did Jake or Jill Beck
6 ever provide care for Leol?

7 A I would say yes, at one time. It was on a weekend that
8 my husband and I needed the weekend off to go
9 somewhere. I can't remember if it was camping or going
10 up to the house. And I did ask them if they would stay
11 with Leol over the weekend, and they said yes.

12 Q So aside from that weekend, did they provide care to
13 Leol?

14 A No.

15 MR. CULLEY: Nothing further at this time, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Cross?

17 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS:

19 Q Ms. Corson, I don't think we've met. My name is
20 Jonathan Davis, and I represent Jacob and Jill. Good
21 morning.

22 A Good morning.

23 Q I'm going to start by following up on some of Mr.
24 Culley's questions.

25 A Yes.



1 Q You sat in the courtroom yesterday. You know that
2 that's usually what I do.

3 A Uh-huh.

4 Q You and your husband lived in the 1913 Bristol Road for
5 approximately 10 months?

6 A Yeah, probably, yeah.

7 Q And during that time period, you paid nothing to Jacob
8 and Jill for rent?

9 A That is correct.

10 Q And during that time period, you knew that Jacob and
11 Jill owned the house, right.

12 A That is correct.

13 Q And did you, in fact, participate in any discussions
14 with Mr. Corson, your father-in-law, and Jacob and Jill
15 regarding the plan to purchase the house?

16 A No. I was not involved in that. We had talked about
17 maybe two months prior, but nothing was significant
18 about it. We did not know about it until after.

19 Q And your testimony is that you were providing care for
20 Mr. Corson, in essence, in exchange for free rent?

21 A Yes and no.

22 Q Well, counsel was asking you questions about how much
23 you made and how many hours of care you provided. And
24 you were doing some math -- or counsel was doing some
25 month at \$12 an hour. That's your attempt to put a

1 value on the level of care you provided, correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And you provided that level of care in exchange for not
4 paying rent, right?

5 A Yeah.

6 Q And that clearly was a benefit to Mr. Corson, your
7 father-in-law, right?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Because presumably, if care wasn't being provided for
10 in exchange for free rent, presumably, if care was
11 required someone would have to pay, right?

12 A Correct.

13 Q In your current position, are you aware of how much
14 CNA's are paid?

15 A Not really.

16 Q Okay.

17 A I never ask. It's none of my business.

18 Q And counsel suggested that you work with patients, but
19 I thought I heard you say that you're an environment
20 services technician?

21 A That is correct. I am.

22 Q You provide a housekeeping service. It's --

23 A Right.

24 Q -- an important service to keep that place running, of
25 course.



1 A Right.

2 Q Okay. Isn't it true that you had conversations with
3 Jacob and Jill about moving down to Bristol at least in
4 part to be closer to your daughter and grandchildren?

5 A That is absolutely true.

6 Q Who is your daughter?

7 A My daughter is Kathleen Corson.

8 Q And who are your grandchildren?

9 A Yes, I do have one grandson.

10 Q And who is that?

11 A Jason Venner (phonetic).

12 Q And where does your granddaughter live?

13 A She lives in Bristol, Maine.

14 Q And so at least in part your motivation for moving down
15 was to be closer to your grandkid, right?

16 A That is correct.

17 Q How far is it from Bristol, Maine to Howland, Maine?

18 A About 130 miles. It's a two and a half hour drive.

19 Q And in your conversations with Jacob and Jill, didn't
20 the benefit of you being down close -- you and your
21 husband being down closer to your daughter and child
22 come up?

23 A When? I'm sorry.

24 Q When you were talking with Jacob and Jill about coming
25 down to move into the Bristol, Maine property, didn't



1 the -- didn't the topic of being closer to your
2 daughter and grandchild come up?

3 A Yes, it did.

4 Q And didn't you express interest in moving to be closer
5 to your daughter and grandchild?

6 A Yes, I did. Absolutely.

7 Q And you were aware when you moved down that that
8 arrangement was not going to be permanent, correct?

9 A Yes, I knew that, yes.

10 Q And you were present in court yesterday, and you heard
11 Mr. Corson, your father-in-law, state that the deal was
12 that you and your husband were going to be moving out
13 in November, correct?

14 A That is correct.

15 Q And that's November of 2017, correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you, in fact, moved out on or around October 10,
18 20-- -- or October 11, 2017, right?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q And you moved into a mobile home that your father-in-
21 law had purchased?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And that's a mobile home he had, in fact, purchased on
24 August of 2017, right?

25 A That is correct.



1 Q And your father-in-law testified that that's a mobile
2 home that you and your husband originally were planning
3 to rent. Was his testimony accurate?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And rather than having you rent it he bought it?

6 A Right.

7 Q To provide a place for you and your husband to live?

8 A Right.

9 Q Is Mr. Corson, your father-in-law, capable of preparing
10 his own meals?

11 A He can, yes, but it's according to what it is.

12 Q Can he bathe and dress himself?

13 A He did at the time, yes.

14 Q Is your name currently on any of Mr. Corson's bank
15 accounts?

16 A Not now, no.

17 Q Was your name on any of --

18 A Yes, it was.

19 Q -- Mr. Corson's bank accounts? And that was in 2017?

20 A That is correct.

21 Q And when was your name taken off?

22 A I'd rather not say.

23 MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, I'd ask that you instruct the
24 witness to answer the question.

25 THE COURT: All right. Ma'am, you'll need to answer the

1 question. Thank you.

2 A Because I had problems with his spending -- spending.
3 And not only that, his other two sons were coming
4 around, and I did not trust them fully. And I still
5 don't. And I wanted my name taken off the accounts,
6 because I did not want to be accused of stealing his
7 money.

8 BY MR. DAVIS:

9 Q You were present in the courthouse -- courtroom
10 yesterday when Mr. Gallagher was testifying, Attorney
11 James Gallagher?

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q Is it fair to say that there's -- there is tension
14 between your father-in-law and his children? Not all
15 of them perhaps but there's -- the family doesn't get
16 along all that well taken as a whole?

17 A There was tension, but now they are gradually getting
18 together, but it's going to take time.

19 Q And sometimes these tensions concern money and
20 property?

21 A No, not most of that, no. There's other stuff.

22 Q Did you help your father-in-law move out of the Bristol
23 Road property?

24 A Excuse me. Say that again?

25 Q Sure. Did you help your father-in-law move out of the



1 Bristol Road property in October 2017?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And he took various items out of the house?

4 A He took all his personal stuff, he thought it was his
5 out of the house.

6 Q And did you at that time -- I'm not asking you what
7 other people may have told you -- did you at that
8 time -- at that time have any reason to question
9 whether that stuff was his or belonged to somebody
10 else? Did you think it was his stuff he was taking?
11 Let me rephrase the question.

12 A It was his stuff that we took that he thought was his
13 at that time.

14 MR. DAVIS: Nothing further, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Thank you, redirect.

16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. CULLEY:

17 Q Just briefly, Kerstin. In your work at the facility,
18 at Cove's Edge, regarding working with elders, is the
19 work that you did there, similar to what you do with
20 Leol?

21 A Very similar, yes, the cleaning and everything. And I
22 don't cook the meals at Cove's, but I cook the meals at
23 home. I've been doing it since I was 14. So yes.

24 MR. CULLEY: Thank you.

25 MR. DAVIS: Nothing further, Your Honor.



1 THE COURT: All right. May this witness be excused?

2 MR. CULLEY: Yes, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Thank you. You're all set, ma'am.

4 THE WITNESS: Thank you, very much.

5 (Hearing concluded at 9:01 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing, pages 1 through 17,
is a true transcript of a CD recorded on Tuesday, October 29,
2019, at the Lincoln County Superior Court located at
Wiscasset, Maine, of the case entitled, LEOL CORSON V. JACOB
AND JILL BECK, to the best of my professional skills and
abilities.

November 26, 2019

Katherine Linstad

Katherine J. Linstad

Court-Approved Transcriber

