

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR PALM  
BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

CASE NO:

PETER BONACCI,

Plaintiff,

v.

TOM MINAS, M.D., CRAIG ROBBINS, M.D.  
and TENET FLORIDA PHYSICIAN  
SERVICES II, L.L.C. d/b/a PALEY  
ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE INSTITUTE,

Defendants.

---

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI, by and through undersigned counsel, sues Defendants, TOM MINAS, M.D., CRAIG ROBBINS, M.D., and TENET FLORIDA PHYSICIAN SERVICES II, L.L.C. d/b/a PALEY ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE INSTITUTE and states:

**JURISDICTION, PARTIES & VENUE**

1. This is an action for damages that exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), exclusive of interest, costs, and attorney's fees.
2. Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI, at all times relevant, was a resident of Palm Beach County, Florida, and is otherwise, *sui juris*.
3. At all times relevant, Defendant, TOM MINAS, M.D. (herein shall be referred to as "MINAS"), was a physician licensed to practice in the state of Florida, and actively practicing as a physician in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Freedland Harwin Valori Gander Spillis, PLLC  
550 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 630, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

4. At all times relevant, Defendant, CRAIG ROBBINS, M.D. (herein shall be referred to as “ROBBINS”), was a physician licensed to practice in the state of Florida, and actively practicing as a physician in Palm Beach County, Florida.

5. At all times relevant, Defendant TENET FLORIDA PHYSICIAN SERVICES II, L.L.C. d/b/a PALEY ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE INSTITUTE (herein shall be referred to as “PALEY INSTITUTE”) was a Florida for-profit corporation with an office for transaction of its customary business in Palm Beach County, Florida.

6. At all times relevant, Defendant MINAS was an employee and/or agent of PALEY INSTITUTE and was acting within the course and scope of said employment/agency.

7. At all times relevant, Defendant ROBBINS was an employee and/or agent of PALEY INSTITUTE and was acting within the course and scope of said employment/agency.

8. Venue is proper in Palm Beach County, Florida because Defendants MINAS, ROBBINS, and PALEY INSTITUTE reside in the County.

9. All conditions precedent to the bringing of this action have occurred, have been waived, or have been otherwise satisfied, including the requirements set forth in Chapter 766.

10. Plaintiff would further allege that Defendants MINAS, ROBBINS, and PALEY INSTITUTE did not comply with the presuit requirements of Section 766 and failed to provide relevant information/documents that were requested during the presuit investigation.

#### **FACTS GIVING RISE TO THE CLAIM**

11. PETER BONACCI presented to Defendant MINAS at PALEY INSTITUTE for orthopedic care and treatment

on October 25, 2022 as a 63-year-old male with complaints of long-term right knee pain and a recent bicycle accident with vascular injury to right groin/thigh requiring surgery, with a large hematoma, deep vein thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism following the surgery.

12. PETER BONACCI presented again to PALEY INSTITUTE on November 7, 2022 and this time was seen by ROBBINS regarding his right knee pain.

13. It was after these visits that it was recommended that PETER BONACCI undergo a total knee arthroplasty to be performed by MINAS with a contemporaneous peroneal nerve decompression surgery to the right knee to be performed by ROBBINS.

14. However, prior to recommending and proceeding with the peroneal nerve decompression surgery, MINAS did not adequately explain or advise Plaintiff of the risks associated with this procedure prior to Plaintiff agreeing to undergo it.

15. ROBBINS also did not adequately explain or advise Plaintiff of the risks associated with the peroneal nerve decompression surgery prior to Plaintiff agreeing to undergo it.

16. On December 22, 2022, MINAS performed a cemented total right knee arthroplasty and ROBBINS performed a peroneal nerve decompression on Plaintiff.

17. However, following these procedures, Plaintiff's right knee and physical condition significantly worsened, and Plaintiff developed a burning neuropathy in the plantar surface of the right foot, and required use of a walker in order to ambulate, in addition to significant pain and reduction in range of motion.

18. As a result, Plaintiff suffered a permanent and catastrophic injury to his right leg.

**COUNT I**  
**NEGLIGENCE OF TOM MINAS, M.D.**

19. Paragraphs 1-18 are adopted and restated as if fully set forth herein.

20. At all times relevant, Defendant MINAS owed a duty to PETER BONACCI to provide that level of care, skill, and treatment which, in light of all relevant surrounding circumstances, is recognized as acceptable and appropriate by reasonably prudent similar health care providers.

21. Defendant MINAS breached that duty to PETER BONACCI through one or more of the following acts or omissions:

- a) Failing to properly evaluate the Plaintiff and document findings prior to recommending and participating in a peroneal nerve decompression surgery;
- b) Recommending and facilitating the performance of a peroneal nerve decompression surgery in conjunction with the total knee arthroplasty performed on Plaintiff, in the absence of adequate justification for the nerve decompression surgery; and
- c) Participating in an unindicated peroneal nerve decompression procedure.

22. It was foreseeable to Defendant that these acts and omissions would result in injury to PETER BONACCI.

23. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant MINAS' negligence, Plaintiff PETER BONACCI has in the past suffered and will in the future continue to suffer bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, and the expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and aggravation of a pre-existing condition. These losses are permanent and continuing in nature and Plaintiff PETER BONACCI will continue to suffer these losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI, demands judgment against Defendant, TOM MINAS, M.D., for compensatory damages, costs of this action, post-judgment interest, and such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT II**  
**LACK OF INFORMED CONSENT AS TO DEFENDANT MINAS**

24. Paragraphs 1-23 are adopted and restated as if fully set forth herein.

25. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was under the care and treatment of MINAS.

26. MINAS was required to explain to Plaintiff substantial risks and hazards inherent in the peroneal nerve decompression surgery prior to proceeding to perform said procedure on Plaintiff.

27. Prior to performing the procedure, MINAS did not explain to Plaintiff the substantial risks and hazards inherent in the procedure or the medically acceptable alternative procedures or treatments.

28. Plaintiff would not have undergone the procedure had Plaintiff been properly advised by Defendant of the risks and hazards inherent in the procedure, as well as the other medically acceptable alternatives.

29. Plaintiff underwent the procedure without informed consent and as a result, suffered bodily injury.

30. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant MINAS' failure to obtain informed consent, Plaintiff PETER BONACCI has in the past suffered and will in the future continue to suffer bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, and the expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and aggravation of a pre-existing condition. These losses are permanent and continuing in nature and Plaintiff PETER BONACCI will continue to suffer these losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI, demands judgment against Defendant, TOM MINAS, M.D., for compensatory damages, costs of this action, post-judgment interest, and such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT III**  
**VICARIOUS LIABILITY OF PALEY INSTITUTE FOR MINAS**

31. Paragraphs 1-30 are adopted and restated as if fully set forth herein.

32. At all times relevant, Defendant PALEY INSTITUTE is responsible and vicariously liable for the negligent acts, conduct, and omissions of its employees and/or agents acting within the course and scope of said employment/agency, including MINAS.

33. At all times relevant, MINAS was an employee and/or agent of PALEY INSTITUTE, was acting within the scope of said employment/agency of PALEY INSTITUTE, was under the control of PALEY INSTITUTE, and acting in furtherance of PALEY INSTITUTE's interest, thereby making PALEY INSTITUTE vicariously liable for the negligent acts, conduct, and omissions of MINAS.

34. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and breach of duty by MINAS, as employee/agent of PALEY INSTITUTE, Plaintiff PETER BONACCI was permanently and severely injured.

35. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent acts, conduct, and omissions of Defendant PALEY INSTITUTE, by and through its employee/agent, MINAS, Plaintiff PETER BONACCI has in the past suffered and will in the future continue to suffer bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, and the expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and aggravation of a pre-

existing condition. These losses are permanent and continuing in nature and Plaintiff PETER BONACCI will continue to suffer these losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI demands judgment against Defendant, TENET FLORIDA PHYSICIAN SERVICES II, L.L.C. d/b/a PALEY ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE INSTITUTE, for compensatory damages, costs of this action, post-judgment interest, and such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT IV**  
**NEGLIGENCE OF CRAIG ROBBINS, M.D.**

36. Paragraphs 1-18 are adopted and restated as if fully set forth herein.

37. At all times relevant, Defendant ROBBINS owed a duty to PETER BONACCI to provide that level of care, skill, and treatment which, in light of all relevant surrounding circumstances, is recognized as acceptable and appropriate by reasonably prudent similar health care providers.

38. Defendant ROBBINS breached that duty to PETER BONACCI through one or more of the following acts or omissions:

- a) Failing to properly evaluate the patient and document findings prior to proceeding with a peroneal nerve decompression;
- b) Agreeing to participate in a total knee arthroplasty and peroneal nerve decompression surgery in the absence of adequate justification for the peroneal nerve decompression surgery; and
- c) Performing an unindicated peroneal nerve decompression procedure.

39. It was foreseeable to Defendant that these acts and omissions would result in injury to PETER BONACCI.

40. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant ROBBINS' negligence, Plaintiff PETER BONACCI has in the past suffered and will in the future continue to suffer bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, and the expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and aggravation of a pre-existing condition. These losses are permanent and continuing in nature and Plaintiff PETER BONACCI will continue to suffer these losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI, demands judgment against Defendant, CRAIG ROBBINS, M.D., for compensatory damages, costs of this action, post-judgment interest, and such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT V**  
**LACK OF INFORMED CONSENT AS TO DEFENDANT ROBBINS**

41. Paragraphs 1-18 and 36-40 are adopted and restated as if fully set forth herein.

42. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was under the care and treatment of ROBBINS.

43. ROBBINS was required to explain to Plaintiff substantial risks and hazards inherent in the peroneal nerve decompression surgery prior to proceeding to perform said procedure on Plaintiff.

44. Prior to performing the procedure, ROBBINS did not explain to Plaintiff the substantial risks and hazards inherent in the procedure or the medically acceptable alternative procedures or treatments.

45. Plaintiff would not have undergone the procedure had Plaintiff been properly advised by Defendant of the risks and hazards inherent in the procedure, as well as the other medically acceptable alternatives.

46. Plaintiff underwent the procedure without informed consent and as a result, suffered bodily injury.

47. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant ROBBINS' failure to obtain informed consent, Plaintiff PETER BONACCI has in the past suffered and will in the future continue to suffer bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, and the expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and aggravation of a pre-existing condition. These losses are permanent and continuing in nature and Plaintiff PETER BONACCI will continue to suffer these losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI, demands judgment against Defendant, CRAIG ROBBINS, M.D., for compensatory damages, costs of this action, post-judgment interest, and such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT VI**  
**VICARIOUS LIABILITY OF PALEY INSTITUTE FOR ROBBINS**

48. Paragraphs 1-18 and 36-47 are adopted and restated as if fully set forth herein.

49. At all times relevant, Defendant PALEY INSTITUTE is responsible and vicariously liable for the negligent acts, conduct, and omissions of its employees and/or agents acting within the course and scope of said employment/agency, including ROBBINS.

50. At all times relevant, ROBBINS was an employee and/or agent of PALEY INSTITUTE, was acting within the scope of said employment/agency of PALEY INSTITUTE, was under the control of PALEY INSTITUTE, and acting in furtherance of PALEY INSTITUTE's interest, thereby making PALEY INSTITUTE vicariously liable for the negligent acts, conduct, and omissions of ROBBINS.

51. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and breach of duty by ROBBINS, as employee/agent of PALEY INSTITUTE, Plaintiff PETER BONACCI was permanently and severely injured.

52. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent acts, conduct, and omissions of Defendant PALEY INSTITUTE, by and through its employee/agent, ROBBINS, Plaintiff PETER BONACCI has in the past suffered and will in the future continue to suffer bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, and the expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and aggravation of a pre-existing condition. These losses are permanent and continuing in nature and Plaintiff PETER BONACCI will continue to suffer these losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI demands judgment against Defendant, TENET FLORIDA PHYSICIAN SERVICES II, L.L.C. d/b/a PALEY ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE INSTITUTE, for compensatory damages, costs of this action, post-judgment interest, and such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff, PETER BONACCI, demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable as a matter of right.

**CERTIFICATE OF PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL**

The undersigned counsel hereby certifies that he has made a reasonable investigation as permitted by the circumstances which has given rise to his belief that grounds exist for the subject action against the Defendants named in this complaint.

DATED this 25th day of November, 2025.

FREEDLAND HARWIN VALORI  
GANDER SPILLIS P.L.L.C.  
Counsel for Plaintiff  
550 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 630  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Tel: 954-467-6400  
Fax: 954-670-2530

By: s/ Daniel Harwin

DANIEL HARWIN, ESQ.

FBN: 0682446

[Daniel@fhvlegal.com](mailto:Daniel@fhvlegal.com)

MELISSA GUNION, ESQ.

FBN: 86766

[Melissa@fhvlegal.com](mailto:Melissa@fhvlegal.com)

[Cheri@fhvlegal.com](mailto:Cheri@fhvlegal.com)