

**POCATELLO, IDAHO, OCTOBER 9, 2025, AT 10:00 A.M.**

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO**

**SHASTA PROULX  
fka SHASTA FIGUEROA,**

**Claimant-Appellant,**

**v.**

**SAVEWAY MARKET, INC., Employer; and  
AMTRUST INSURANCE CO. OF KANSAS,  
INC., Surety,**

**Defendants-Respondents.**

**Docket No. 51856-2024**

Appeal from the Idaho Industrial Commission.

Petersen, Parkinson & Arnold, PLLC, Idaho Falls, for Appellant.

Bowen & Bailey, Boise, for Respondents.

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This is an appeal from an order of the Idaho Industrial Commission. Shasta Proulx, fka Shasta Figueroa, was employed at Saveway Market, Inc., when she was injured carrying a heavy box. Proulx complained of shoulder and neck pain, was diagnosed with a strain, and received treatment over roughly six months. When Proulx's symptoms did not fully resolve, Saveway's surety, Amtrust Insurance Company of Kansas, Inc., requested an independent medical examination. That examination was performed by Dr. John Vallin, who opined that Proulx had likely suffered a strain that did not require additional treatment. Amtrust notified Proulx that she would receive partial disability benefits but would no longer receive temporary disability or medical benefits.

Proulx filed a complaint with the Idaho Industrial Commission. She also sought an evaluation from another healthcare provider, Dr. Benjamin Blair. Dr. Blair opined that Proulx's persisting symptoms were caused by a bulging disc in her cervical spine that was either caused or aggravated by the workplace accident. He believed that Proulx required surgical treatment to repair her cervical spine. Amtrust then requested another independent medical examination, this time performed by Dr. Lynn Stromberg. Dr. Stromberg opined that Proulx's cervical spine had only mild, degenerative abnormalities not causally attributable to her accident and that would not explain her reported symptoms. Dr. Stromberg agreed with Dr. Vallin that Proulx had likely suffered a strain that did not require any additional medical care, and he cautioned against any invasive surgical interventions. The Commission issued a decision in which it determined that Proulx failed to establish that she injured her neck in the accident and failed to establish that

surgical intervention was reasonable. It found Dr. Vallin and Dr. Stromberg to be more persuasive than Dr. Blair.

Proulx filed a timely notice of appeal. She argues that the Commission's findings are clearly erroneous because the evidence shows that she injured her neck in the accident and that surgical intervention is reasonable. She also argues that the Commission made improper credibility determinations, discounting Dr. Blair's testimony and her own reports regarding the nature and severity of her symptoms. Saveway and Amtrust argue that Proulx has not shown that the Commission made any clearly erroneous factual findings or any improper credibility determinations.