

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Sohar Chavez v. Kevin Stokes – Docket No. 42589

In a case arising out of the Idaho Industrial Commission (the Commission), the Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the order of the Commission. Appellant Kevin Stokes employed Respondent Sohar Chavez as a part-time irrigator on Stokes's farm. Chavez was injured during the course of his employment, and Life Flight Network (Life Flight) transported Chavez from the area of Fruitland/Payette, Idaho, to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. A few days after the injury, Life Flight billed Chavez for the transport. Chavez then filed a claim for worker's compensation. Stokes, as the employer of Chavez, was uninsured for purposes of worker's compensation law, but has paid all medical expenses related to the injury except the Life Flight bill, which he contended was unreasonable. The Commission determined that the Life Flight transport was reasonable under Idaho Code section 72-432(1). Stokes appealed to this Court. This Court overruled *Sprague v. Caldwell Transportation, Inc.*, 116 Idaho 720, 779 P.2d 395 (1989), to the extent that it stood for the adoption of a specific test for the reasonableness of medical treatment under Idaho Code section 72-432(1). This Court also overruled *Sprague's* holding that the reasonableness of medical treatment was a question of law. This Court held that the review of the Commission's determination of the reasonableness of the claimant's medical treatment pursuant to Idaho Code section 72-432(1) is a question of fact to be supported by substantial and competent evidence. Based on the evidence in the record, this Court affirmed the Commission's order.