



State of Wisconsin
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Correspondence Memorandum

DATE: January 26, 2016
TO: Group Insurance Board
FROM: David H. Nispel, General Counsel
Dan Hayes, Attorney
SUBJECT: Status of Pending Legal Cases

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

This memorandum presents the status of pending or recently concluded legal cases involving insurance issues and the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) and the Group Insurance Board (GIB). In order to maintain Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) member confidentiality, the names of the parties and case numbers are not identified in this memorandum.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of litigation in which the GIB and/or ETF are parties or are otherwise involved--not to provide any legal advice concerning the cases listed here. These cases are being handled by either an assistant attorney general from the Department of Justice (DOJ) or a private attorney retained by Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS). If you questions about a particular case, we will provide you with the name of the attorney handling the case.

As of January 26, 2016, there are 11 cases, divided into the following categories:

Court Cases Handled by DOJ (5)

ETF (GIB not a party) 5
GIB and ETF..... 0

Subrogation Cases Handled by Private Attorney (6)

(per Article XII, Section H, Administrative Service Agreement with WPS)

Reviewed and Approved by Robert J. Conlin, Secretary
 Electronically Signed: 1/28/16

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
GIB	2.17.16	8D

COURT CASES HANDLED BY DOJ

Case No. 1:

Issue – Which party is entitled under the applicable law to the life insurance and retirement death benefits of the deceased WRS member?

Summary – The wife and sister of the deceased have been involved in litigation to determine who is legally entitled to the life insurance and retirement death benefits. ETF was named as a defendant in an effort to prevent the death benefits from being paid. ETF informed the parties and the court that no payments will be made until the case is resolved.

Status – On October 8, 2014, the trial court judge issued a final judgment ordering the establishment of two trusts to be funded with life insurance proceeds: 1) \$110,000 educational trust for the wife, and 2) \$100,000 educational and medical trust for the daughter of the sister. All remaining life insurance proceeds and the deceased's entire WRS retirement account were awarded to the sister as a survivor. On November 21, 2014, the wife appealed the decision. The parties have filed legal briefs in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals – District 3. A decision is pending.

Attorney – DOJ attorney.

Case No. 2:

Issue – ETF provided income continuation insurance benefits and long term disability benefits following plaintiff's involvement in an automobile accident and seeks repayment for those payments made.

Summary – ETF was named a defendant in a Winnebago County Circuit Court case in which the plaintiff seeks damages for personal injuries sustained in the accident and a determination of ETF's subrogation interest.

Status – Litigation is pending. A jury trial has been rescheduled for a second time and is now set for August 1-5, 2016.

Attorney – DOJ attorney.

Case No. 3:

Issue – ETF provided long term disability benefits following plaintiff's involvement in an automobile accident and seeks repayment for those payments made.

Summary – ETF was named an involuntary plaintiff in a Portage County Circuit Court case in which the plaintiff seeks damages for personal injuries sustained in the accident and a determination of ETF's subrogation interest.

Status – Settlement has been reached, and the litigation has concluded.

Attorney – DOJ attorney.

Case No. 4:

Issue – ETF provided income continuation insurance benefits and long term disability benefits following personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff as a result of alleged negligence by a chiropractor and seeks repayment for those payments made.

Summary – ETF was named an involuntary plaintiff in a Winnebago County Circuit Court case in which the plaintiff seeks damages for personal injuries sustained in the incident and a determination of ETF's subrogation interest.

Status – Litigation is in early stages. A jury trial has not been scheduled at this time.

Attorney – DOJ attorney.

Case No. 5:

Issue – ETF provided income continuation insurance benefits following plaintiff's involvement in an automobile accident and seeks repayment for those payments made.

Summary – ETF was named an involuntary plaintiff in a Dane County Circuit Court case in which the plaintiff seeks damages for personal injuries sustained in the accident and a determination of ETF's subrogation interest.

Status – Litigation is in early stages. A jury trial has been scheduled for June 21-23, 2016.

Attorney – DOJ attorney.

WPS SUBROGATION CASES

WPS has retained private counsel to handle these cases, and no ETF or DOJ attorney is involved. There are six cases pending in which GIB or ETF has a subrogation interest in a court action filed by a WRS member because ETF provided benefits to that member following a personal injury.

Staff will be available at the board meeting to answer questions.