3000 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 3 • Las Vegas, NV 89102 • (702) 259-8640

Doc. 87

processes and procedures of NPL not generally known and which would be of an economic or strategic value to their competitors, and non-public documents between NPL and federal agencies containing personal identifying information of current and former employees who are third parties to this litigation.

## I. <u>Documentation, Information and Medical Records of Plaintiffs.</u>

The parties, by and through their respective counsel of record, stipulate and request that this Court issue an Order protecting the confidential nature of certain records regarding Plaintiffs made available to Defendants by Plaintiffs' health care providers pursuant to subpoenas *duces tecum* served or to be served on the health care providers during discovery. The parties acknowledge the concerns regarding the confidential nature of the documentation and information requested in the subpoenas *duces tecum* to be served on the health care providers, as well as the legal restrictions placed upon disclosure of some of the documents and information under federal and state statutory law, as well as common law, and the potential harm that may result through public disclosure. For this reason, the parties have agreed to the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order as follows:

- 1. The terms of this Stipulated Protective Order shall apply to documents produced by the health care providers in response to subpoenas *duces tecum*, and information contained therein or excerpted therefrom, to include: (a) Plaintiffs' medical treatment records; (b) documents referencing medical treatments and/or appointment dates and times; (c) records showing billing and/or payment for services provided to Plaintiffs; and (d) records and/or correspondence identifying other health care providers who provided other medical services to Plaintiffs.
- 2. The documents and information referenced in Paragraph 1 above, the contents thereof and information contained therein, together with any copies of the same, are hereinafter referred to as "Confidential Patient Information." If a party produces to another party documents that contain Confidential Patient Information as defined above, that party must designate the document, or a portion of it, as "Confidential" before producing that document to another party.

Such designation shall be made by marking, stamping or typing the words "Confidential" on the document at the time it is produced to the receiving party's counsel.

- 3. Confidential Patient Information may be used only in the above-captioned action and may not be used in any other action for any other purpose unless the party seeking to make such use either: (a) acquired the material from a source independent of the above-captioned action, (b) obtains leave of the Court to do so, or (c) obtains written permission of the health care provider to do so. The parties to this case reserve their rights to assert the confidentiality of documents and information produced irrespective of their production pursuant to this Stipulated Protective Order.
- 4. Within sixty (60) calendar days of the entry of the final order concluding this judicial proceeding, all Confidential Patient Information (including all copies made) shall be destroyed and/or returned to the health care providers, except as otherwise ordered by the Court. Counsel of record shall obtain return of such Confidential Patient Information from any person to whom that counsel has made available the Confidential Patient Information. Notwithstanding any other language contained in this Order, each party's counsel of record and in-house counsel shall be allowed to retain for its files a copy of all pleadings, motions, exhibits, or other papers filed and/or lodged with the Court. All such documents and information retained by counsel of record must be maintained in a confidential manner and used only in accordance with this Stipulated Protective Order.
- 5. Nothing in this Stipulated Protective Order shall in any way preclude Defendants from moving to compel production of documents sought in its subpoenas *duces tecum*, but not produced pursuant to this Stipulated Protective Order. Furthermore, nothing in this Stipulated Protective Order shall in any way preclude Defendants from seeking production of documents from other health care providers by way of a subpoena *duces tecum*.
- 6. This Stipulated Protective Order may be amended without prior leave of the Court by the agreement of counsel for the parties in the form of a stipulation and order that shall be filed with the Court.

## II. <u>Confidentiality of Certain Other Information Produced During Discovery for Use in Non-Dispositive and Dispositive Motions.</u>

During the course of discovery in this matter, documents and information considered confidential by at least one of the parties may be disclosed, including but not limited to employment records and/or information related to current and former employees and third-party individuals who are not parties to this litigation, personal identifying information for said nonparties, financial and banking information, proprietary information concerning the internal operations, processes and procedures of NPL not generally known and which would be of an economic or strategic value to their competitors, and non-public documents between NPL and federal agencies containing personal identifying information of current and former employees who are third parties to this litigation, customer-related information and other confidential and/or proprietary information. The parties agree that a Protective Order is necessary in light of the need to protect such confidential and/or proprietary information from public disclosure, the dissemination of such non-public, confidential and/or proprietary information may cause competitive, operational and/or financial harm to Defendants, including but not limited to loss of revenue; the fact that the disclosure of confidential personnel records and information would potentially subject the parties to liability from privacy-based claims by such non-party employees, former employees, and/or third-party individuals; and the fact that the disclosure of confidential personnel records related to non-party employees, former employees and third-party individuals could harm such individuals if used to interfere with their job opportunities or relationships, impact their reputation, and cause them undue embarrassment and/or distress.

For these reasons, if, in the course of this action a party produces answers to interrogatories, documents, or other things which it considers constitute confidential information as defined above, there is deposition testimony which a party believes contains confidential information, or third parties produce information they assert as confidential, the following procedure shall govern pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c):

1. Any documents (and the contents thereof), things or information falling within the definitions set forth in Paragraph (a) immediately following that are produced pursuant to

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 or in response to interrogatories and/or requests for production of documents may be designated and marked, in whole or in part, "Confidential" by the party producing the documents or information at the time the documents are made available for inspection by the other party. If so, the following procedure applies:

- a. "Confidential Information" is defined herein to include, but not limited to personnel records, including but not limited to personnel, payroll, benefits, discipline, investigative, termination or other employment records pertaining to non-party individuals, employees, or former employees of Defendant NPL; customer information; financial, accounting and banking information; proprietary information concerning the internal operations, processes and procedures of NPL not generally known and which would be of an economic or strategic value to their competitors; and non-public documents between NPL and federal agencies containing personal identifying information of current and former employees who are third parties to this litigation or other confidential proprietary information.
- b. If a party produces to another party documents that contain Confidential Information as defined above, that party may designate a document, or a portion of it, as "Confidential" before producing that document to the other party. Such designation shall be made by marking, stamping or typing the words "Confidential" on the document at the time it is produced to the receiving party's counsel.
- c. Any party may designate deposition testimony as "Confidential" by orally making this designation on the record either at the commencement of the deposition, at the time the testimony is given, and/or before the end of that day's questioning. Following such designation, the court reporter shall mark "Confidential" on the transcript or portion thereof containing the "Confidential" testimony.
- d. In addition, documents produced by one party may be designated "Confidential" by another party by marking the document, in whole or in part, "Confidential" in the same manner and by then forwarding a copy of the marked document to the producing party. If the documents have been numbered by the producing party, the party seeking the designation may then designate by number each document it believes should be "Confidential."

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- e. If the receiving party has no objection to the "Confidential" designation, the receiving party may either expressly notify the producing party or allow the ten (10)-calendar-day objection period set forth below to lapse. Where there has been no objection made, once the document has been produced to the receiving party the document shall be treated as a "Confidential" document, respectively, pursuant to this Protective Order.
- 2. The following conditions shall apply in the event of an objection to the designation:
- a. If there is an objection to the "Confidential" designation, the party so objecting must notify the other party in writing of both the objection and the grounds for the objection within ten (10) calendar days of the date the designation was made, and the procedure in subparagraph (b), *infra*, shall apply.
- If the parties do not agree that the documents, information or testimony h. should be treated as confidential, the parties shall attempt to resolve the issue informally. If a resolution does not occur, the party that designated the documents or testimony at issue "Confidential" may file a motion with the Court to resolve the dispute. Such motion must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the written objection to the designation. If an objection is raised, the documents, testimony and/or information at issue shall be governed by paragraphs 3-9 of this Protective Order, and treated and regarded as "Confidential" from the date of disclosure and/or production until the dispute is resolved informally by the parties or a final order is issued by the Court resolving the dispute. If the parties do not informally resolve the dispute and no motion is filed by the party that designated the documents "Confidential," the documents subject to the dispute shall no longer be deemed "Confidential" under the terms of this Protective Order. In the event of such motion, the parties having entered into this Stipulation and the existence of the Court's Order entered thereon shall not affect the burden of proof on any such motion, nor impose any burdens upon any party that would not exist had the stipulation and this Protective Order not been entered.
- 3. A document or testimony, or portion, summary, or abstract thereof, that is to be treated "Confidential" pursuant to this Protective Order shall not be disclosed to any persons

other than the parties, counsel of record for the parties, attorneys, legal assistants and clerical personnel employed by them, and other persons to whom disclosure is necessary for purposes of this litigation. Each such person to whom a party makes such disclosure shall read this Protective Order and acknowledge in writing that he/she is fully familiar with the terms thereof and agrees to comply with, and be bound by, this Protective Order until modified by either further order of the Court or agreement of all the parties.

The foregoing obligations of confidentiality, except as established by the Court in this litigation, shall not apply to any of the above persons or parties to the extent that the information is available to the public at the time of production by Plaintiffs or Defendants, or which is subsequently disclosed to such persons or parties by others who are not under obligations of confidentiality to Plaintiffs or Defendants.

- 4. If either party seeks to attach "Confidential" documents, testimony or information to a discovery or non-dispositive motion, response or reply, only those portions of the motion, response or reply pleading that contain specific reference to the contents of "Confidential" documents or information, and the exhibits that contain such "Confidential" information, shall be filed under seal. The remainder of the pleading and other exhibits, which do not contain "Confidential" information, shall be filed as publicly accessible documents unless otherwise specifically ordered by the Court.
- 5. If either party seeks to attach "Confidential" documents, testimony or information to a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion filed with the Court, and for "Confidential" documents which are identified in the joint pretrial order, the following procedures shall apply:
- a. The party seeking to attach "Confidential" documents, testimony or information to a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion filed with the Court shall submit to the Court, separate from the motion, an application to seal documents and memorandum of points and authorities which addresses the issue of whether compelling reasons exist to seal such documents, testimony or information pursuant to <u>Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu</u>, 447 F.3d 1172 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006). The party's Application will specifically present

articulable facts identifying the interests favoring continuing the secrecy of the attachments, and shows that these specific interests outweigh the public's interests in disclosure sufficient to overcome the presumption of public access to dispositive pleadings and attachments. Any application to seal documents attached to a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion, or for documents identified in the joint pretrial order, shall be served on opposing counsel together with the documents proposed to be filed under seal. Opposing counsel shall have fifteen (15) days from service of any such application to seal in which to file a response.

- b. As an alternative to Section II, Paragraph 5(a) of this Protective Order, any party seeking to attach "Confidential" documents, testimony, or information to a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion filed with the Court shall prepare a stipulation that designates a specific letter, number or other designation other than the name and/or position of each non-party listed in each "Confidential" document and/or is the subject of the "Confidential" information. The letter, number, or other designation shall be used in place of the individual's name and/or position, which name and/or position shall be redacted and replaced by such designation, in any motion for summary judgment, other dispositive motion, or accompanying exhibit(s) filed with the Court.
- 6. Any "Confidential" documents, testimony, or information, or any pleading or memorandum purporting to reproduce or paraphrase all or any portion of such confidential material to be filed under seal with the Court shall be filed under seal pursuant to the procedures of the United States District Court District of Nevada's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System ("CM/ECF") or as otherwise allowed or provided by the Court. To the extent that "Confidential" documents, testimony, information or documents containing information purporting to reproduce or paraphrase all or any portion of such confidential material takes the form of exhibits or supporting documents to a motion, pleading or memorandum that does not otherwise contain "Confidential" information, the "Confidential" exhibits or supporting documents shall be filed separately from the motion, pleading or memorandum under seal as provided in the CM/ECF procedures.

19

20

25

26

23

- 7. Any documents, testimony, and/or information that has been rendered "Confidential" under the parties' Protective Order is to be used only in the above-captioned action, and may not be used in any other action or for any other purpose unless the party seeking to make such use acquired the documents, testimony, and/or information from a source independent of the above-captioned action.
- 8. Within sixty (60) calendar days of the entry of the final order concluding this judicial proceeding, all "Confidential" documents or things, any copies, summaries, and abstracts thereof, or notes relating thereto, shall be returned to the producing party, except as otherwise ordered by the Court or stipulated in writing by the parties. Counsel of record shall obtain return of such information, things, and/or documents from any person to whom that counsel has made available the documents or information produced by the other party designated as "Confidential." Notwithstanding any other language contained in this Order, each party's counsel of record and in-house counsel and/or any party, to the extent that party does not have counsel of record, shall be allowed to retain for its files a copy of all pleadings, motions, exhibits, or other papers filed and/or lodged with the Court, and of all documents designated by both parties or any non-party as "Confidential" and/or summaries or abstracts thereof (including but not limited to documents of any type prepared by a party and/or counsel that are subject to the attorney-client privilege and/or the attorney work product doctrine). All such documents and information retained by counsel of record or by any party who does not have counsel of record, must be maintained in a confidential manner and used only in accordance with this Order.
- 9. This Protective Order may be amended without prior leave of the Court by agreement in the form of a stipulation and order that shall be filed in this case.
- 10. The parties reserve their rights to assert the confidentiality of documents and information produced irrespective of their production pursuant to this Protective Order.
- 11. Each and all of the undersigned parties agree to the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order. Any party to this litigation who has not signed the Stipulated Protective Order, but wishes to obtain copies of Confidential Information produced in this case, will be required to file a joinder to the Stipulated Protective Order or similar affirmation. Parties who refuse to

	ve Confidential
2 Information produced in this case without further order of the Court.	
3 DATED this 18 <sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.	
Respectfully submitted,	
5 BROOME LAW FIRM, PLLC KAMER ZUCKER ABI	BOTT
6	
7 By: /s/ Stanley D. Broome By: /s/ R. Todd Creer Gregory J. Kamer	#0270
8 Texas State Bar #24029457 Edwin A. Keller, Jr. 1155 West Wall Street, Suite 102 R. Todd Creer	#6013 #10016
9 Grapevine, Texas 76051 3000 West Charleston B Tel: (214) 574-7500 Las Vegas, Nevada 8910 Fax: (214) 574-7501 Tel: (702) 259-8640	Slvd., Suite 3
Fax: (702) 259-8646	
Attorneys for Plaintiffs  Attorneys for Defendant	t NPL
Construction Co.	
By: /s/ John Speidel By: /s/ Paul Schelly	
John Speidel Paul Schelly P.O. Box 1958 123 Figueroa Street, #11	142
16 Pomona, California 91769 Los Angeles, California	
Tel: (909) 786-7498 Tel: (213) 687-3720	
Defendant in Proper Person Defendant in Proper Per	rson
19	
20	
21 ORDER	
22 IT IS SO ORDERED.  5-23-2012	
23   Butc	
24 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE	JUDGE
25	
26	
26   27   27   27   27   27   27   27	