

STATE OF MAINE  
WALDO, ss

SUPERIOR COURT  
CIVIL ACTION  
DOCKET NOS. CV-05-003  
NM-WAL-7/11/2007

ALICE GEARY,

Plaintiff

v.

THE STANLEY MEDICAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE,  
et al.,

Defendants

ORDER ON THE DEFENDANTS  
MATTHEW CYR AND LORIE  
STEVENS'S MOTION FOR  
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

2007 JUL 11 A 8:06  
RECEIVED AND FILED  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
DESIJARDIN  
COURTS

Defendants Matthew Cyr and Lorie Stevens move for summary judgment on the plaintiff's complaint.<sup>1</sup> The defendant Stevens argues that she did not cause any of the alleged harm to the plaintiff. Both defendants argue that there is no private right of action under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA); the defendants are immune from liability based on negligent or reckless conduct; the plaintiff cannot raise an issue of material fact regarding the elements of causes of action for interference with and mutilation of a corpse, for negligent, reckless, or intentional misrepresentation, or for reckless or intentional infliction of emotional distress. See Defs.' 9/21/06 Mem. at 1-2;

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<sup>1</sup> The defendants filed an 85-paragraph statement of undisputed material facts. The plaintiff responded to the defendants' statement and filed her own 170-paragraph statement of additional material facts. Neither submission constitutes a "short, and concise statement of material facts" as required by Rule 56. See M.R. Civ. P. 56(h)(1) & (2); Stanley v. Hancock County Commissioners, 2004 ME 157, ¶ 29, 864 A.2d 169, 179 (court has discretion to deny motion for summary judgment if a "party submits an unnecessarily long, repetitive, or otherwise convoluted statement of material facts that fails to achieve the Rule's requirement of a 'separate, short, and concise' statement").

The parties also incorporate "motions to strike" in their responses. See Randall v. Potter, 366 F. Supp. 2d 120, 121 n.1 ("The motion to strike has become the evil twin of the motion for summary judgment."); M.R. Civ. P. 56(i) (effective 4/2/07) ("Motions to Strike Not Permitted"). The analysis required by Rule 56(h) renders a motion to strike unnecessary.

22 M.R.S.A. §§ 2901-2911 (2006). For the following reasons, the motion is granted in part and denied in part.<sup>2</sup>

**Count I: Violation of UAGA**

There is no private right of action to enforce the UAGA.

**Count II: Negligence &  
Count VI: Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress**

The UAGA provides that a person who acts in good faith is not liable for damages "in any civil action." 22 M.R.S.A. § 2907(3). The definition of good faith under the UAGA requires that in order to be liable for damages in a civil action, the defendants must have acted "maliciously, possessed a design to defraud or to seek an unconscionable advantage over the plaintiff[], or acted out of something other than an honest belief . . . ." Carey v. New England Organ Bank, 843 N.E.2d 1070, 1083; 22 M.R.S.A. § 2907(3) (emphasis added). The good faith immunity "is designed for situations . . . where because of confusion, an organ is removed without genuine consent." Lyon v. United States, 843 F. Supp. 531, 536 (D. Minn. 1994); see Perry v. Saint Francis Hosp. and Medical Ctr., Inc., 886 F. Supp. 1551, 1564-65 (D. Kan. 1995) (hospital and harvester not entitled to summary judgment on negligence claim under Kansas UAGA).

**Proximate Cause: Defendant Stevens &  
Count III: Interference with and Mutilation of a Corpse**

The plaintiff has raised genuine issues of material fact regarding whether any conduct by defendant Stevens was a proximate cause of plaintiff's damages<sup>3</sup> and

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<sup>2</sup> The court incorporates into this order the orders dated June 8, 2007 in the Allen case on the defendants' motions for summary judgment, the order dated July 6, 2007 in the Geary case on the defendants SMRI and Torrey's motion for summary judgment, and the order dated November 21, 2005 in the Bourgoin, Grant, Howes, King, Leblanc, Marceau, and Monzingo cases on defendants SMRI and Torrey's motion to dismiss.

whether the defendants intentionally mistreated or improperly dealt with the body, prevented its proper burial, or interfered with the plaintiff's right to the body. See, e.g., Plaintiff's Statement of Additional Material Facts (PSAMF), ¶¶ 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 33 (dates were changed on Q1), 134-136 (existence of three consents with ME numbers), 139, 147, 157; Defendants' Response to Plaintiff's Statement of Additional Material Facts (DRSAMF), ¶¶ 8, 9, 10, 11, 33, 139, 147, 157.

#### **Count IV: Negligent, Reckless, or Intentional Misrepresentation**

The plaintiff has failed to raise genuine issues of material fact regarding the elements of a cause of action for misrepresentation. In her complaint, the plaintiff alleges that she gave no written or oral consent for any organ or tissue to be taken from Raymond Geary's body, that the defendants falsely stated to the Medical Examiner's Office that the plaintiff had consented, and organs and tissue were removed from Mr. Geary's body. See Plaintiff's Complaint, ¶¶ 16-24, 48-53; DSUMF, ¶ 79; PSOMF, ¶ 79; PSAMF, ¶¶ 34, 139, 151, 152; DRSAMF, ¶¶ 34, 139, 151, 152. There is no alleged misrepresentation on which the plaintiff relied. See Maine Eye Care Associates v. Gorman, 2006 ME 15, ¶ 19, 890 A.2d 707, 711; Rand v. Bath Iron Works Corp., 2003 ME 122, ¶ 13, 832 A.2d 771, 774.

#### **Counts V: Reckless or Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress**

The court will assume that the Law Court would recognize a cause of action based on the allegations in this case. See Gammon v. Osteopathic Hosp. of Maine, Inc., 534 A.2d 1282, 1285 (Me. 1987); Rubin v. Matthews Int'l Corp., 503 A.2d 694, 699 n.5 (Me. 1986); Restatement (Second) of Torts § 868 (1979). The court will also assume that the Law Court would allow a cause of action against persons and agencies other than

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<sup>3</sup> The plaintiff has raised issues of fact regarding Mr. Cyr's instructions to have consents witnessed before submission to the Medical Examiner's Office, the defendant Stevens's witnessing the consents, and

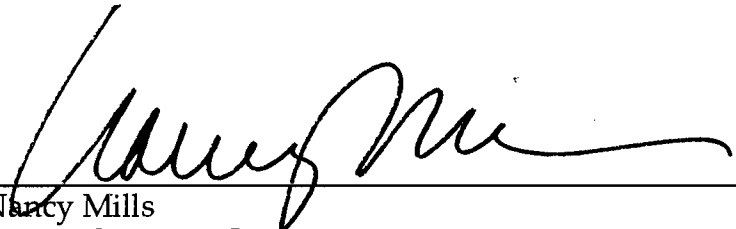
those who performed the autopsy or directly handled the body. See, e.g., Burgess v. Perdue, 721 P.2d 239, 244 (Kan. 1986) (suits for interference with dead bodies allowed against persons or agencies other than those who actually performed the autopsy or directly interfered with the body).

The entry is

The Defendants Cyr and Stevens's Motion for Summary Judgment is GRANTED on Counts I, IV, and VII of the Plaintiff's Complaint. Judgment is entered in favor of the Defendants Cyr and Stevens and against the Plaintiff on Counts I, IV, and VII of the Plaintiff's Complaint.

The Defendants Cyr and Stevens's Motion for Summary Judgment is DENIED on Counts II, III, V, VI of the Plaintiff's Complaint.

Date: July 10, 2007



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Nancy Mills  
Justice, Superior Court

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the submission of the consents to the Medical Examiner's Office.

STATE OF MAINE  
WALDO, ss

SUPERIOR COURT  
CIVIL ACTION  
DOCKET NOS. CV-05-003

ALICE GEARY,

Plaintiff

v.

THE STANLEY MEDICAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE,  
et al.,

Defendants

ORDER ON THE DEFENDANTS THE  
STANLEY MEDICAL RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE AND DR. E. FULLER  
TORREY'S MOTION FOR  
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

RECEIVED AND FILED  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
2007 JUL 11 A 8:06  
JES LADDIN  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURTS

Defendants the Stanley Medical Research Institute (SMRI) and Dr. E. Fuller Torrey (Torrey) move for summary judgment on the plaintiff's complaint.<sup>1</sup> The defendants argue that they did not violate the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA), that they acted in good faith and are not liable for damages in a civil action pursuant to the UAGA, that they are not responsible for the conduct of other defendants, and that they cannot be held vicariously liable for the conduct of the other defendants. See 22 M.R.S.A. §§ 2901-2911 (2006). For the following reasons, the motion is granted in part and denied in part.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The defendants filed a 157-paragraph statement of undisputed material facts. The plaintiff responded to the defendants' statement and filed her own 150-paragraph statement of additional material facts. Neither submission constitutes a "short, and concise statement of material facts" as required by Rule 56. See M.R. Civ. P. 56(h)(1) & (2); Stanley v. Hancock County Commissioners, 2004 ME 157, ¶ 29, 864 A.2d 169, 179 (court has discretion to deny motion for summary judgment if a "party submits an unnecessarily long, repetitive, or otherwise convoluted statement of material facts that fails to achieve the Rule's requirement of a 'separate, short, and concise' statement").

The parties also incorporate "motions to strike" in their responses. See Randall v. Potter, 366 F. Supp. 2d 120, 121 n.1 ("The motion to strike has become the evil twin of the motion for summary judgment."); M.R. Civ. P. 56(i) (effective 4/2/07) ("Motions to Strike Not Permitted"). The analysis required by Rule 56(h) renders a motion to strike unnecessary.

<sup>2</sup> The court incorporates into this order the orders dated June 8, 2007 in the Allen case on the defendants' motions for summary judgment, the order dated July 6, 2007 in the Geary case on the defendants Cyr and Stevens's motion for summary judgment, and the order dated November 21, 2005 in

### **Violation of UAGA**

The plaintiff has raised genuine issues of material fact regarding whether the defendants violated the UAGA. See, e.g., Defendants' Statement of Undisputed Material Facts (DSUMF), ¶¶ 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 19, 20, 27; Plaintiff's Statement of Opposing Material Facts (PSOMF), ¶¶ 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 19, 20, 27; Plaintiff's Statement of Additional Material Facts (PSAMF), ¶¶ 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 134, 138, 139; Defendants' Response to Plaintiff's Statement of Additional Material Facts (DRSAMF), ¶¶ 4, 5, 6, 139; 22 M.R.S.A. §§ 2902(3), 2904(5).

### **SMRI Liability for Defendant Cyr**

The plaintiff has raised genuine issues of material fact regarding whether SMRI is liable for the conduct of Mr. Cyr. See, e.g., PASMf, ¶¶ 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110 ("monitor", not "supervised"), 112, 113, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119.

### **Good Faith**

The plaintiff has raised genuine issues of material fact regarding whether the defendants acted in good faith.<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., PASMf, ¶¶ 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33 (dates were changed on Q1), 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 133, 134-136 (existence of three consents), 138, 139, 147.

### **Count I: Violations of the UAGA**

There is no private right of action to enforce the UAGA.

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the Bourgoin, Grant, Howes, King, Leblanc, Marceau, and Monzingo cases on defendants SMRI and Torrey's motion to dismiss.

<sup>3</sup> On this record, the defendants can claim the good faith defense. See, e.g., DSUMF, ¶¶ 1, 2 (based on personal knowledge); DRSAMF, ¶¶ 4, 5.

## **Count II: Negligence**

The plaintiff has raised genuine issues of material fact regarding her claim of negligence. See, e.g., DSUMF, ¶¶ 13, 19, 20, 27; PSOMF, ¶¶ 13, 19, 20, 27; PSAMF, ¶¶ 139, 140, 144, 150; DRSAMF, ¶¶ 139, 150; see also paragraphs specified in Violation of UAGA, SMRI Liability for Defendant Cyr, and Good Faith sections, above.

## **Count III: Interference with and Mutilation of a Corpse**

The plaintiff has raised genuine issues of material fact regarding whether the defendants intentionally mistreated or improperly dealt with the body or prevented its proper burial or interfered with the plaintiff's right to the body. See, e.g., DSUMF, ¶¶ 13, 19, 20, 27; PSOMF, ¶ 13, 19, 20, 27; PASM, ¶¶ 139, 145, 146, 147; DRSAMF, ¶ 139.

## **Count IV: Negligent, Reckless, or Intentional Misrepresentation**

The plaintiff has failed to raise genuine issues of material fact regarding the elements of a cause of action for misrepresentation. In her complaint, the plaintiff alleges that she gave no written or oral consent for any organ or tissue to be taken from Raymond Geary's body, that the defendants falsely stated to the Medical Examiner's Office that the plaintiff had consented, and organs and tissue were removed from Mr. Geary's body. See Plaintiff's Complaint, ¶¶ 16-24; DSUMF, ¶¶ 13, 19, 20, 25, 27; PSOMF, ¶¶ 13, 19, 20, 25, 27; PSAMF, ¶ 139; DRSAMF, ¶ 139. There is no alleged misrepresentation on which the plaintiff relied. See Maine Eye Care Associates v. Gorman, 2006 ME 15, ¶ 19, 890 A.2d 707, 711; Rand v. Bath Iron Works Corp., 2003 ME 122, ¶ 13, 832 A.2d 771, 774.

Further, the plaintiff has failed to raise an issue of fact regarding pecuniary damages. See, e.g., PSAMF, ¶¶ 140, 141, 143. Expert witness designations by counsel and deposition exhibits, without more, are insufficient record references. See M.R. Civ. P. 56(c) & (h).

**Counts V and VI: Reckless or Intentional and Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress**

The plaintiff has raised genuine issues of material fact regarding the claims for infliction of emotional distress. See, e.g., DSUMF, ¶¶ 13, 19, 20, 27; PSOMF, ¶¶ 13, 19, 20, 27; PASMf, ¶¶ 139, 140 (except for last sentence), 144, 150; see also paragraphs specified in Violation of UAGA, SMRI Liability for Defendant Cyr, and Good Faith sections, above.

The entry is

The Defendants SMRI and Torrey's Motion for Summary Judgment is GRANTED on Counts I, IV, and VII of the Plaintiff's Complaint. Judgment is entered in favor of the Defendants SMRI and Torrey and against the Plaintiff on Counts I, IV, and VII of the Plaintiff's Complaint.

The Defendants SMRI and Torrey's Motion for Summary Judgment is DENIED on Counts II, III, V, and VI of the Plaintiff's Complaint.

Date: July 9, 2007

  
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Nancy Mills  
Justice, Superior Court



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SUPERIOR COURT  
WALDO, ss.  
Docket No BELSC-CV-2005-00003

**DOCKET RECORD**

vs

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Filing Document: COMPLAINT  
Filing Date: 01/24/2005

Minor Case Type: OTHER CIVIL

**Docket Events:**

01/25/2005 FILING DOCUMENT - COMPLAINT FILED ON 01/24/2005

01/27/2005 Party(s): ALICE GEARY