

Starr chiropractor wins \$112,100 jury verdict in defamation case

Kirk Brown, kirk.brown@independentmail.com Published 6:21 p.m. ET Jan. 27, 2017



(Photo: File)
CONNECTTWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE

A jury decided this week that Starr chiropractor Gregg Battersby is entitled to collect a total of \$112,100 from two Anderson County women who accused him of indecent exposure.

Jurors awarded Battersby \$61,100 in damages from Carrie Neal and \$50,000 from Jan Morton-Ganter, court records show.

Battersby represented himself in the trial involving the defamation lawsuit that he filed against Neal and Morton-Ganter. He said the verdict represented a measure of vindication from the ordeal that he has endured since being arrested on two counts of indecent exposure in August 2013. The charges were dropped by the 10th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office in April 2014.

"It has been a living hell," said Battersby, adding that he struggled with depression.

Battersby said that he was falsely accused by the women, and in the suit he said that Neal owed him \$12,000 for past treatments and Neal and Morton-Ganter were friends.

His state chiropractor's license was suspended for nearly two years in connection with his arrest. Although his license was restored in August 2015, the South Carolina Board of Chiropractic Examiners publicly reprimanded Battersby for displaying a misleading banner outside his home office in Starr that said he charged \$25 for office visits.

Battersby said his practice has yet to recover.

"People tend to believe what they want," he said.

Judge Donald B. Hocker has given attorneys for Neal and Morton-Ganter 10 days to file post-trial motions in the case, Anderson County Clerk of Court Richard Shirley said.

ADVERTISING

Morton-Ganter's attorney, Anderson lawyer John Kirkman Moorhead, said he is considering options for a possible appeal.

"We respect the jury's verdict but we are disappointed," he said.

Neal did not attend the trial and her attorney did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Court records show that Neal pleaded guilty to methamphetamine possession last year. She received a three-year suspended sentence and was ordered to serve two years of probation.

Jurors in this week's trial were not told about Battersby's 2006 conviction in Ohio on a public indecency charge.

Battersby also has sued John Skipper, Anderson County sheriff at the time of his 2013 arrest. A judge dismissed the case but Battersby appealed the ruling. His case is pending before the South Carolina Court of Appeals, a clerk said. Skipper lost his re-election bid in November.