

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF RICHLAND

Audra Hall,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Merit Transport, Inc. and Kim Doe,

Defendants.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR  
THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Case No.: 2021-CP-40-03536

**ORDER OF DEFAULT JUDGMENT  
AGAINST DEFENDANT MERIT  
TRANSPORT, INC.**

**RECEIVED**

**Dec 02 2021**

**SC Court of Appeals**

**Hearing Date:** October 25, 2021

**Presiding Judge:** Special Referee Trevor Eddy, Esq.

**Plaintiff's Attorney:** Kenneth E. Berger, Esq., Brett D. Woron, Esq., and Bradley L. Lanford, Esq.

**Defendant's Attorney:** None Present

Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment and to ascertain damages came before this Court on October 25, 2021, upon referral by the Clerk of Court following an Entry of Default for a Damages Hearing pursuant to Rule 55 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure ("SCRCP"). Plaintiff Audra Hall and her attorneys, Kenneth Berger, Brett Woron and Bradley Lanford, were present at the hearing.

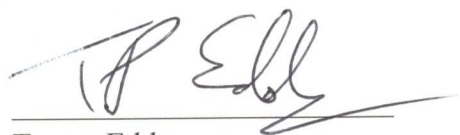
The Court determined that Defendant Merit Transport, Inc. ("Defendant") was properly served with the Summons and Complaint on July 21, 2021, and the Entry of Default was filed on September 20, 2021, after the Defendant failed to provide an Answer or otherwise respond. The Defendant was properly notified of this hearing pursuant to Rule 55, SCRCP, and all parties hereto and subject matter thereof are within the jurisdiction of this Court.

The incident that forms the basis of this lawsuit occurred on September 10, 2020, when the Defendant's employee, while talking on her cell phone, pushed the Plaintiff who was in a wheelchair down the vehicle ramp at an unsafe rate of speed and while distracted, causing the wheelchair to overturn and injuring the Plaintiff. Based upon the testimony and evidence of record, including the Plaintiff's extensive testimony as to the past, present, and future nature of her injuries and how they have and continue to affect her life, I find the Plaintiff has sustained actual damages in the amount of \$2,750,000.00. I further find that, based upon the Defendant's conduct, that \$250,000.00 in punitive damages is appropriate. Now, therefore:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** the Plaintiff is granted judgment against Defendant Merit Transport, Inc. in the amount of \$2,750,000.00 in actual damages and \$250,000.00 in punitive damages for a total judgment of \$3,000,00.00.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of this Court shall enter judgment in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 against Defendant Merit Transport, Inc. in the Judgment Rolls of Richland County, South Carolina.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**



Trevor Eddy  
Special Referee

11/2, 2021