

TENNESSEE COURT OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Daniel Eicholtz v. RAE Builders, LLC

2025 TN WC 92 (Tenn. Ct. Workers' Comp. Cl. 2025) · No. 2022-04-0223 · Decided December 18, 2025

SUMMARY

The Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Claims granted Daniel Eicholtz's request for a panel of psychiatrists to evaluate and treat psychiatric symptoms allegedly related to his work injury. The court held that an authorized physician's referral for psychiatric care triggered the statutory presumption of medical necessity, even though the physician did not offer an opinion on causation. The order directed RAE Builders to submit a psychiatrist panel and set a scheduling hearing.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Claims
JURISDICTION	Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Claims, Cookeville
DECIDED	December 18, 2025
DOCKET	2022-04-0223
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Expedited workers' compensation hearing on whether the employer was required to furnish psychiatric care and a panel of psychiatrists for treatment of symptoms allegedly causally related to the employee's compensable work injury.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Tenn. Code Ann. § 50-6-239(d)(1), the employee had to show a likelihood of prevailing at a hearing on the merits.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published expedited hearing order from the Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Claims

TOPICS

- workers compensation
- employment law

PRACTICE AREAS

- workers compensation
- employment law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether an authorized treating physician's referral for psychiatric care is sufficient to require the employer to provide a panel of psychiatrists when the physician does not opine that the employee's psychological condition was caused by the work injury.
2. Whether the statutory presumption that treatment recommended by an authorized physician is medically necessary applies at the expedited-hearing stage.

HOLDINGS

1. An authorized treating physician's referral for psychiatric care is sufficient at the expedited-hearing stage to require the employer to offer a panel of psychiatrists; the physician need not also opine that the employee's psychological condition was causally related to the work injury.
2. To obtain the requested psychiatric treatment through an expedited hearing, the employee must show a likelihood of prevailing at a hearing on the merits.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The issue is not whether Employee has come forward with sufficient evidence to convince the trial court that the referral was medically necessary or that his alleged psychological injury is causally related to the work incident." (3)

"Instead, the relevant issue is whether Employee came forward with sufficient proof from which the trial court could conclude a panel-selected treating physician made a referral to a specialist." (3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Eicholtz suffered a calcaneus fracture and tendon tear in his right foot and ankle when he fell from a ladder on October 3, 2021. RAE Builders accepted the claim and authorized treatment with orthopedist Dr. Chase Corn, who performed two surgeries and provided other treatment. After Eicholtz reported anxiety and depression and requested psychiatric evaluation, Dr. Corn recommended a mental-health evaluation but declined to express an opinion that the psychiatric condition was causally related to the work injury.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Daniel Eicholtz sustained a compensable foot and ankle injury while working for RAE Builders. After his authorized treating physician recommended a psychiatric evaluation, the employer disputed whether the referral was causally related to the work injury and declined to provide psychiatric treatment. Following an expedited hearing on December 9, 2025, the Court of Workers' Compensation Claims found that Eicholtz was likely to prevail and ordered RAE Builders to offer a panel of psychiatrists.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

RAE Builders was ordered to submit a panel of psychiatrists from which Eicholtz could choose an authorized physician to provide reasonable and necessary treatment for psychiatric symptoms causally related to the work injury. Compliance was required within seven business days unless an interlocutory appeal was filed.

CASES CITED

- Beech v. G4S Secure Solutions (USA), Inc., 2020 TN Wrk. Comp. App. Bd. LEXIS 71, at *7-8 (Dec. 16, 2020)

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