

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
FIRST DEPARTMENT

Ravi S.A. v. Gyebi

2026 NY Slip Op 01840 · No. Case No. 2025-03694; Appeal No. 6191; Index No. 29650/17 · Decided March 26, 2026

SUMMARY

The New York Appellate Division, First Department, reversed a judgment dismissing the complaint and vacated the underlying order in a personal injury action involving an infant plaintiff's alleged post-traumatic stress disorder. The court held that defendants failed to establish prima facie entitlement to summary judgment dismissing the significant limitation of use claim under Insurance Law § 5102(d), but properly dismissed the permanent consequential limitation of use claim. The court also affirmed denial of the infant plaintiff's cross-motion for partial summary judgment and directed that the appellate record be sealed to protect confidential personal information.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, First Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Webber, J.P.; González, J.; Mendez, J.; O'Neill Levy, J.; Hagler, J.
JURISDICTION	New York Appellate Division, First Department
DECIDED	March 26, 2026
DOCKET	Case No. 2025-03694; Appeal No. 6191; Index No. 29650/17
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs appealed from a judgment dismissing the complaint and brought up for review an order granting defendants summary judgment dismissing the infant plaintiff's claims that her post-traumatic stress disorder constituted a serious injury under the permanent consequential limitation of use and significant limitation of use categories of Insurance Law § 5102(d), while denying the infant plaintiff's cross-motion for partial summary judgment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On summary judgment, the moving party must establish entitlement to judgment as a matter of law; once that showing is made, the opposing party must demonstrate a triable issue of fact. The court also reviewed whether the infant plaintiff established serious injury as a matter of law on her cross-motion.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Ravi S.A. et al., J.A., an infant plaintiff v. Thompson Gyebi et al.

TOPICS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the timely appeal from the judgment made the nonfinal summary-judgment order reviewable despite the plaintiff's failure to separately appeal from that order.
2. Whether defendants established prima facie entitlement to summary judgment dismissing the infant plaintiff's PTSD claim under the permanent consequential limitation of use category of Insurance Law § 5102(d).
3. Whether defendants established prima facie entitlement to summary judgment dismissing the infant plaintiff's PTSD claim under the significant limitation of use category of Insurance Law § 5102(d).
4. Whether the infant plaintiff established as a matter of law that her PTSD constituted a serious injury under the significant limitation of use category.
5. Whether the appellate record should be sealed because it contained unredacted confidential personal information.

HOLDINGS

1. A timely notice of appeal from the judgment made reviewable the nonfinal order granting defendants summary judgment because that order necessarily affected the final judgment, even though plaintiff did not separately appeal from the order.
2. Defendants established prima facie entitlement to summary judgment dismissing the infant plaintiff's PTSD claim under the permanent consequential limitation of use category, and plaintiff failed to raise a triable issue of fact.
3. Defendants failed to establish prima facie entitlement to summary judgment dismissing the infant plaintiff's PTSD claim under the significant limitation of use category.
4. The infant plaintiff was not entitled to partial summary judgment establishing that her PTSD constituted a significant limitation of use and therefore a serious injury under Insurance Law § 5102(d).
5. The appellate record was ordered sealed because it contained unredacted confidential personal information concerning the infant plaintiff.

KEY QUOTATIONS

““Serious,” in this context, means severe, pervasive, or debilitating, as opposed to transient, temporary, “minor, mild[,] or slight”” (at 1)

“Defendants’ interpretation of this evidence as not supporting a claim of serious injury, unsupported by any expert opinion, goes to the weight to be afforded thereto, but not its legal sufficiency.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The infant plaintiff allegedly developed PTSD following an accident. She treated with a therapist for several months and then with an alleged psychologist for several months, after which her mother, who was not a mental-health professional, withdrew her from therapy and treated her at home. Treatment records and deposition testimony indicated that the child made some progress but also regressed and continued to experience PTSD symptoms affecting her life; two expert psychologists administered objective testing but identified only one or two mild clinically significant findings on each instrument.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Supreme Court, Bronx County, entered an order on June 5, 2024 granting defendants partial summary judgment and denying the infant plaintiff's cross-motion. The court entered judgment dismissing the complaint on May 28, 2025. The Appellate Division held that the timely appeal from the judgment made the nonfinal order reviewable, reversed the judgment, vacated it, modified the order to deny defendants summary judgment on the significant-limitation-of-use claim, and otherwise affirmed.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The judgment was vacated. The order was modified to deny defendants' motion for summary judgment dismissing the significant limitation of use claim and was otherwise affirmed. The record was sealed.

CASES CITED

- Guzman v City of New York, 228 AD3d 558, 559 [1st Dept 2004]
- Helfant v Sobkowski, 174 AD2d 340, 341 [1st Dept 1991]
- Pommells v Perez, 4 NY3d 566, 572 [2005]
- Ramkumar v Grand Style Transp. Enters. Inc., 22 NY3d 905, 906 [2013]
- Fernandez v Sukhdeep, 245 AD3d 630, 632 [1st Dept 2026]
- Solano v American United Transp. Inc., 243 AD3d 497, 497-498 [1st Dept 2025]
- Kassai v Trump Mgt. Inc., 242 AD3d 602, 602 [1st Dept 2025]
- Pullman v Silverman, 28 NY3d 1060, 1062 [2016]
- Bissonette v Compo, 307 AD2d 673, 674 [3d Dept 2003]
- Licari v Elliott, 57 NY2d 230, 236 [1982]

- Fillette v Lundberg, 150 AD3d 1574, 1578-1579 [3d Dept 2017]
- Chapman v Capoccia, 283 AD2d 798, 800 [3d Dept 2001]
- Krivit v Pitula, 79 AD3d 1432, 1434 [3d Dept 2010]
- Ampofo v Key, 168 AD3d 601, 602 [1st Dept 2019]
- Ogando v National Frgt., Inc., 166 AD3d 569, 570 [1st Dept 2018]

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Ravi S.A. v Gyebi (2026 NY Slip Op 01840) Ravi S.A. v Gyebi 2026 NY Slip Op 01840 Decided on March 26, 2026 Appellate Division, First Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Decided and Entered: March 26, 2026 Before: Webber, J.P., González, Mendez, O'Neill Levy, Hagler, JJ. Index No. 29650/17|Appeal No. 6191|Case No. 2025-03694| [*1]Ravi S.A. et al., Appellants, v Thompson Gyebi et al., Respondents.

The Law Office of Jason Tenenbaum, P.C., Huntington Station (Jason Tenenbaum of counsel), for appellants. Law Office of Eric D. Feldman, New York (Evy Kazansky of counsel), for respondents. Webber, J.P., González, Mendez, O'Neill Levy, Hagler, JJ. 6191 Ravi S. A. et al., Plaintiffs-Appellants, -against- Thompson Gyebi et al., Defendants-Respondents. Index No. 29650/17 Case No. 2025-03694 The Law Office of Jason Tenenbaum, P.C., Huntington Station (Jason Tenenbaum of counsel), for appellants.

Law Office of Eric D. Feldman, New York (Evy Kazansky of counsel), for respondents. Judgment, Supreme Court, Bronx County (Patsy Gouldborne, J.), entered May 28, 2025, dismissing the complaint, and bringing up for review an order, same court and Justice, entered June 5, 2024, which, to the extent appealed from as limited by the briefs, granted so much of defendants' motion as was for summary judgment dismissing infant plaintiff J.A.'s claims that her post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) constituted a serious injury within the meaning of Insurance Law § 5102 (d) under the permanent consequential limitation of use and significant limitation of use categories, and denied plaintiff J.A.'s cross-motion for partial summary judgment on the issue of serious injury on those claims, unanimously reversed, on the law, without costs, the judgment vacated, and the order modified to deny so much of defendants' motion as was for summary judgment dismissing the significant limitation of use claim, and otherwise affirmed, without costs.

On this Court's own motion, the Clerk is directed to seal the record on appeal due to the presence of unredacted confidential personal information (Uniform Rules for Trial Cts [22 NYCRR] § 202.5[e][2]). Plaintiff's appeal is not untimely.

Although plaintiff never noticed an appeal from the order, the notice of appeal from the judgment, which was timely filed, makes reviewable the nonfinal order, which, in granting summary judgment to defendant, necessarily affects the final judgment (CPLR 5501[a][1]; see e.g. *Guzman v City of New York*, 228 AD3d 558, 559 [1st Dept 2004]).

In addition, there was no limitation on plaintiff's time to enter judgment, and defendants should not be heard to complain when they could have entered judgment themselves (see *Helfant v Sobkowski*, 174 AD2d 340, 341 [1st Dept 1991]). Defendants established their entitlement prima facie to summary judgment only on their claim that the infant plaintiff did not suffer a permanent consequential limitation of use.

Their moving papers demonstrated that, following the accident, the infant plaintiff treated her PTSD with a therapist for only a few months, then with an alleged psychologist, also only for a few months, after which the infant plaintiff's mother (who is not a mental health professional) withdrew her from therapy and decided to treat the infant plaintiff herself.

Thus, defendants identified an effective cessation of the infant plaintiff's treatment (see *Pommells v Perez*, 4 NY3d 566, 572 [2005]; *Ramkumar v Grand Style Transp. Enters. Inc.*, 22 NY3d 905, 906 [2013]). Plaintiff failed to establish an issue of fact. Neither of the experts who examined the infant plaintiff reconciled the mother's decision to cease treatment with the therapist's recommendation that the infant plaintiff would benefit from additional counseling (see e.g. *Fernandez v Sukhdeep*, 245 AD3d 630, 632 [1st Dept 2026] [the plaintiff's doctor's opinion that the plaintiff had achieved maximum benefits from surgery and therapy was contradicted by records that consistently recommended continued treatment and physical therapy, and thus did not adequately explain the cessation of treatment]), nor did they offer any opinion as to whether any treatment the infant plaintiff received at home from her mother sufficed to address her ongoing symptoms.

Accordingly, the claim for permanent consequential limitation of use was properly dismissed (see e.g. *Solano v American United Transp. Inc.*, 243 AD3d 497, 497-498 [1st Dept 2025]). However, defendants, who did not have an expert evaluate the infant plaintiff, failed to establish prima facie that the infant plaintiff's PTSD is not a significant limitation of use under Insurance Law § 5102 (d).

Rather, the evidence that defendants submitted in support of their motion, which consisted of some of the infant plaintiff's treatment records from her initial therapist, as well as her and her mother's deposition testimony, identifies a child who was traumatized by, and after, the accident, made some progress in therapy, but regressed as well, and continues to experience a variety of PTSD symptoms that impact her life.

We note that defendants adopted the mother and daughter's deposition testimony as accurate by submitting it in support of their motion (see e.g. *Kassai v Trump Mgt. Inc.*, 242 AD3d 602, 602 [1st Dept 2025]). Defendants' interpretation of this evidence as not supporting a claim of serious injury, unsupported by any expert opinion, goes to the weight to be afforded thereto, but not its legal sufficiency.

Accordingly, defendants should not have been granted summary judgment dismissing the infant plaintiff's claim of significant limitation of use, without regard to the sufficiency of the opposing papers (see *Pullman v Silverman*, 28 NY3d 1060, 1062 [2016]). Nevertheless, the infant plaintiff was properly denied partial summary judgment on the issue of whether her PTSD constituted a significant limitation of use.

Causally related emotional injuries can constitute serious injuries under Insurance Law § 5102 (d) if they are serious, verifiable, and established by objective medical evidence (see *Bissonette v Compo*, 307 AD2d 673, 674 [3d Dept 2003]). "Serious," in this context, means severe, pervasive, or debilitating, as opposed to transient, temporary, "minor, mild[,] or slight" (*Licari v Elliott*, 57 NY2d 230, 236 [1982]).

On this record, we cannot say that the infant plaintiff established, as a matter of law, that her PTSD was sufficiently serious in this manner (compare e.g. *Fillette v Lundberg*, 150 AD3d 1574, 1578-1579 [3d Dept 2017]; *Chapman v Capoccia*, 283 AD2d 798, 800 [3d Dept 2001]). Neither of her expert psychologists established prima facie medical findings of resulting limitations.

Although courts have recognized that mental health conditions like PTSD are not always amenable to diagnostic testing (see *Krivit v Pitula*, 79 AD3d 1432, 1434 [3d Dept 2010]; *Chapman*, 283 AD2d at 800), here both of the infant plaintiff's expert psychologists administered forms of objective testing, namely the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children and the Child PTSD Symptom Scale for DSM-V (CPSS-V SR).

However, both experts only identified one or two mild clinically significant findings on each instrument, which also was insufficient to establish a serious injury as a matter of law (cf. e.g. *Ampofo v Key*, 168 AD3d 601, 602 [1st Dept 2019]; *Ogando v National Frgt., Inc.*, 166 AD3d 569, 570 [1st Dept 2018]).

Accordingly, the infant plaintiff also was properly denied partial summary judgment on the issue of serious injury without regard to the sufficiency of defendants' opposition papers (see *Pullman*, 28 NY3d at 1062).

Finally, because portions of the record contain the infant plaintiff's unredacted name and date of birth, in violation of 22 NYCRR 202.5 (e) (1) (ii) and (iii), the record should be sealed in order to protect her confidential personal information (22 NYCRR 202.5 [e][2]).THIS CONSTITUTES

THE DECISION AND ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST
DEPARTMENT.

ENTERED: March 26, 2026

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