

## *David Collins v. County of San Diego*

A San Diego jury awarded David Collins, a 32-year-old construction worker, \$12,617,674 against the County of San Diego for the negligence of its Sheriff's deputies and jail nurses.

In November of 2016, Collins had been ill for several weeks. His roommates said he had been acting "strangely." On November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m., Collins called 911 to report that homeless people were sleeping in his bed. His voice was slurred, and he was clearly hallucinating. He denied drinking to the 911 operator. Three Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched, searched the house, and spoke to Collins. They knew he was hallucinating but thought he was drunk.

Approximately three hours later, Collins left his house and was found stumbling by two Good Samaritans about 100 yards from his home. They called 911, saying that Collins was requesting paramedics. They specifically told the 911 operator that he was talking crazy, but they did not think he was drunk.

Paramedics from the Encinitas Fire Department arrived, followed closely by multiple Sheriff's deputies, including the two deputies who had seen Collins earlier. Before the paramedics could complete their medical assessment, the deputies took Collins away and arrested him in violation of County policies.

Collins was taken to the Vista jail where a County nurse cleared him for jail despite noting he wasn't oriented. His condition deteriorated and he fell, twice, striking his head.

The next day, Collins was taken by ambulance to Palomar Hospital. He was diagnosed with a subarachnoid hemorrhage and critically low sodium of 101. Due to his now critical condition, his sodium was raised too rapidly, causing a second injury to his brain stem called osmotic demyelination syndrome.

Collins suffered trauma to his right frontal lobe from the fall causing difficulty with judgment and processing, and a metabolic insult to the brain stem impacting functions including walking, talking and fine motor skills.

Plaintiff settled pre-trial with the medical defendants for a confidential amount.