



working for Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. ("Employer").<sup>2</sup> She described a twisting motion, followed by a pop in her knee. Employee offered conflicting information regarding whether she felt immediate pain but, in any event, she did not seek medical treatment that day. According to the trial court's order, Employee testified she and her husband were on their way to the emergency room to have her injury evaluated the next day when she asked her husband to stop at a store for a loaf of bread. She testified that when she bent over to retrieve the bread from a shelf, she felt intense pain. She proceeded to the emergency room and was evaluated.

Employer denied the claim as not arising out of the employment, and Employee filed a petition for benefit determination. Following an expedited hearing, the trial court determined there was insufficient medical proof to establish a causal link between the employment and the purported injury. The trial court noted that Employee initially reported a knee injury and later claimed a back injury. The court denied relief and Employee appealed.

Testimony was presented to the trial court at the expedited hearing, and the court relied on that testimony in deciding the case. However, we have been provided with no record of this testimony. Moreover, no statement of the evidence has been filed. Thus, the totality of the evidence introduced in the trial court is unknown, and we decline to speculate as to the nature and extent of the proof presented to the trial court. Instead, consistent with established Tennessee law, we must presume that the trial court's rulings were supported by sufficient evidence. *Vulcan Materials Co. v. Watson*, No. M2003-00975-WC-R3-CV, 2004 Tenn. LEXIS 451, at \*7 (Tenn. Workers' Comp. Panel May 19, 2004) ("In the absence of an adequate record on appeal, this Court must presume the trial court's rulings were supported by sufficient evidence."); *Leek v. Powell*, 884 S.W.2d 118, 121 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1994) ("In the absence of a transcript or a statement of the evidence, we must conclusively presume that every fact admissible under the pleadings was found or should have been found favorably to the appellee."). Furthermore, there is a statutory presumption "that the findings and conclusions of the workers' compensation judge are correct, unless the preponderance of the evidence is otherwise." Tenn. Code Ann. § 50-6-239(c)(7) (2015).

In accordance with these principles, we cannot conclude that the evidence preponderates against the trial court's decision. Nor does the trial court's decision violate any of the standards set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated section 50-6-217(a)(3) (2015). Accordingly, the trial court's decision is affirmed, and the case is remanded for any further proceedings that may be necessary.

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<sup>2</sup> The parties have not submitted a transcript of the proceedings in the trial court or a statement of the evidence presented at the expedited hearing. Thus, we have gleaned the facts from the documents and exhibits filed in the trial court, including the trial court's June 17, 2016 expedited hearing order.



