

DEPOSITION SUMMARY

Deposition Summary — T. Okafor, MD

Treating orthopedic surgeon · Reyes v. Delgado · 07/22/2026

CASE OVERVIEW	
CASE	Reyes v. Delgado
DEPONENT	T. Okafor, MD
ROLE	Treating orthopedic surgeon
DATE / LOCATION	07/22/2026 · Mercer & Hale LLP — Dallas, TX
TRANSCRIPT	pp. 1-118
REPORTER	Dallas Court Reporting
PREPARED BY	S. Okafor, RN
PREPARED FOR	Mercer & Hale LLP

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Overview

Dr. Okafor testified consistently with his treatment records. He confirmed the MRI findings, the causal relationship between the 03/14/2025 collision and the L4-L5 herniation, and the permanence of restrictions. He acknowledged the 6-week care gap was attributable to authorization delay, not patient noncompliance.

Testimony by topic

TOPIC	TRANSCRIPT	KEY TESTIMONY
Qualifications & practice	pp. 5-12	- Board-certified orthopedic surgeon since 2009; fellowship in spine surgery. - Approximately 60% of practice is spine; treats MVA injuries regularly.
First evaluation (04/02/2025)	pp. 14-27	- History of rear-end collision 19 days prior; no prior lumbar complaints. - Exam findings documented: reduced flexion, positive SLR, left EHL 4+/5. - MRI ordered because radicular signs persisted beyond two weeks.
MRI findings	pp. 29-41	- Reviewed images with radiologist; confirmed 4.2 mm L4-L5 herniation. - He testified that the herniation was acute and trauma-related. - No degenerative changes elsewhere on the study.
Causation	pp. 42-58	- Opinion: collision caused the herniation within reasonable medical probability. - Basis: temporal relationship, mechanism, absence of prior symptoms, imaging pattern. - He did not attribute any pre-existing contribution; the 2016 strain resolved and was asymptomatic.
Treatment gap	pp. 60-71	- Acknowledged 6-week interval between PCP referral and PT start. - Explained gap was due to insurance authorization; patient followed recommendations. - Opined the gap did not change the ultimate prognosis.
Current status & future care	pp. 73-96	- MMI reached 06/10/2026; 8% left lower extremity impairment. - Permanent restrictions: no lifting over 20 lb; no prolonged sitting. - Future care: annual follow-up, PRN injections, maintenance duloxetine.
Charts review & completeness	pp. 98-112	- Confirmed records reviewed were complete through 07/08/2026. - No missing records identified; no knowledge of additional treating providers.

Inconsistencies & credibility

- Dr. Okafor initially described the gap as 'patient scheduling' in a 05/2025 letter; at deposition he attributed it to insurance authorization. The records support the deposition version (authorization dated 04/03/2025).
- His impairment rating (8% left LE) matches the IME; his causation opinion is consistent across records, letter, and deposition.

Exhibits

- Exh. 1 — MRI report 04/05/2025
- Exh. 2 — PT authorization 04/03/2025
- Exh. 3 — Treatment records (1,870 pp)
- Exh. 4 — IME report 04/09/2026