



DF

**NICHOLS****LAW  
GROUP  
LLC**

NC

9999

Craig A. Nichols

**2025001152GL**Geoff M. Nichols  
Lee Ann Donaldson

August 21, 2025

RECEIVED

**AUG 25 2025**CITY OF PORTLAND  
RISK MANAGEMENT**Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested and First Class Mail:**City of Portland Risk Management  
1120 S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1040  
Portland, OR 97204Oregon Department of Transportation  
355 Capitol Street NE, MS 11  
Salem, OR 97301State of Oregon Risk Management  
P.O. Box 12009  
Salem, OR 97309Multnomah County Risk Management  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97214

Email: risk.management@das.oregon.gov

**RE: TORT CLAIM NOTICE**

Name of Claimant: Steven Benedict  
Location of Incident: Interstate 5 Northbound Exit 297 (Terwilliger Blvd),  
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon  
Dates of Loss: 09/27/2024  
Statutory Authority: ORS 30.275

**To Whom It May Concern:**

This office represents Steven Benedict in relation to injuries he suffered as a result of a tree branch that fell and crushed his vehicle while driving on Interstate 5 Northbound Exit 297 (Terwilliger Blvd) in Portland, Oregon.

Pursuant to ORS 30.275, you are hereby notified that our client Steven Benedict is asserting a claim for damages against the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Department of Transportation, and/or State of Oregon arising out of an incident that occurred on May 14, 2025, while driving northbound on the I-5 Exit 297 (Terwilliger Blvd) in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Benedict was seriously injured when a large branch from a tree adjacent to the Terwilliger Blvd exit snapped and fell onto the roof of his vehicle. Mr. Benedict's injuries are serious and include the following:

Tort Claim Notice – Steven Benedict

City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon Department of Transportation, and/or State of Oregon

August 21, 2025

Page 2

---

At the time of the subject incident, City of Portland, Clackamas Multnomah, Multnomah County Department of Transportation and Development, Oregon Department of Transportation, and/or State of Oregon (hereinafter collectively "Responsible Parties"), and each of them, were negligent and careless in the following respects: (1) the agents of the Responsible Parties, having knowledge of the dangerous tree limb(s), failed and neglected to remove the same; (2) the agents of Responsible Parties, knowing the frequency and danger of failing trees and/or tree limbs at the subject location, failed and neglected to prune and remove dangerous trees and/or tree limbs adjacent to the public highway, well knowing that these trees and/or tree limbs endangered people and property; and (3) the agents of the Responsible Parties failed and neglected to perform the ministerial act of maintenance on the public road/highway. These acts and omissions of negligence on the part of the Responsible Parties, and each of them, were the proximate cause of Mr. Benedict's injuries and damages.

The name of the claimant is Steven Benedict. The mailing address to which correspondence concerning this claim may be sent is as follows: Geoff Nichols, 4504 S. Corbett Avenue, Suite 200 Portland, Oregon 97239; telephone (503) 224-3018, Please send all E-mail communications to:

[REDACTED]

This letter is intended to comply with ORS 30.275. If you need additional information regarding this claim, or facts surrounding this claim, please contact us immediately. Otherwise, if we do not hear from you to the contrary, we will assume that this notice is sufficient for tort claim notice purposes.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding this claim, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Geoff M. Nichols*

Geoff M. Nichols  
Nichols Law Group

GMN/gc

cc: Steven Benedict



LAW  
GROUP  
LLC

Panorama Building  
4504 S Corbett Avenue, Suite 200  
Portland, Oregon 97239

PORTLAND OR RPDC 972

21 AUG 2025 PM 4 L

FIRST CLASS



US POSTAGE IMI PITNEY BOWES



ZIP 97239

02 7H

0001355834

\$ 000.74<sup>0</sup>

AUG 21 2025

City of Portland Risk Management  
1120 S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1040  
Portland, OR 97204

CITY OF PORTLAND  
RISK MANAGEMENT

AUG 25 2025

RECEIVED

97204-191220

