

**STATE COURT OF BIBB COUNTY  
CIVIL JURY VERDICT REPORT**

PLAINTIFF: Patricia Flowe

DEFENDANTS: Cochran Bros. Company, Inc. (Friendly Gus Food Stores)

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 82617

JUDGE: Jeffrey B. Hanson

TYPE OF CASE: Slip and Fall/Premises Liability

TRIAL DATE: April 11 – 13, 2016

VERDICT: Defense

CLAIMED MEDICAL EXPENSES: \$6,236.00

CLAIMED FUTURE MEDICAL EXPENSES: \$8,000.00

LOST WAGES: \$1,200.00

INSURANCE CARRIER: Southern Trust Insurance Company

LAST PRE TRIAL OFFER/DEMAND: \$5,000/\$20,000

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS: Jerry Lumley, Michael Lemon, and Lauren Childs

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Craig Cowart

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

The Plaintiff and her husband were travelling on I-16 and stopped at the Friendly Gus Food Store on Ocmulgee East Blvd. They testified they stopped to get snacks and use the restroom. While the husband talked on his phone outside the store, the Plaintiff went inside, used the restroom, fell in the restroom, walked out, got the car keys from her husband and returned to the car. The husband then went into the store, used the restroom, and returned to the car, at which point the Plaintiff told him she had fallen. The Plaintiff and her husband then went back into the store to report the fall, and while in the store they purchased a soft drink. Plaintiff testified that she did not see anything on the floor in the restroom before she fell, but that she felt a damp place on her pants after she fell. The Store Manager testified she had been in the restroom forty-five to fifty minutes before the Plaintiff went in and the restroom was clean and in order. Video footage from the store camera showed that another woman had been in and out of the restroom within a minute of the time the Plaintiff entered the restroom. The issue of whether the Plaintiff was an invitee or a licensee was disputed. Also, whether the Defendant had an inspection procedure in place was disputed. The Plaintiff and her husband testified and presented a medical narrative from the doctor who treated her broken wrist. The jury deliberated approximately one hour before returning its verdict.