



Statement from Dr. Scott Augustine about Judge Ericksen’s July 31, 2019 Order in re: “Bair Hugger Forced Air Warming Devices Products Liability Litigation (MDL No. 15-2666).”

*Our hearts go out to the horribly injured patients who may not get their day in court. Of course, the ruling will likely be appealed, so this may just be a pause in the litigation.*

*No matter what happens with the litigation against Bair Hugger, one key fact remains:*

***Forced-air warming increases contamination in the sterile field and increases the risk of infection.***

*The science proving contamination of the sterile field from forced-air warming systems—and increased infection risk—is irrefutable. It is just physics: heat rises, and rising heat carries particulates with it.*

*From a legal perspective, besides the patients, the biggest losers are hospitals and clinicians, who now may bear the brunt of all responsibility for the contamination caused by forced-air warming. It is imperative that they evaluate the science for themselves.*

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*Neither Augustine Surgical nor Dr. Augustine are party to or involved in the litigation against Bair Hugger.*

**About Augustine Surgical Inc.**

Augustine Surgical exists to eliminate preventable complications with innovative surgical safety products and services.

For inquiries contact Augustine Surgical Inc.  
[info@aug surg.com](mailto:info@aug surg.com) | 952-746-1720