

Ectopic Pregnancy: Nurse Midwife Is Faulted.

The thirty year-old patient had a prior ectopic pregnancy which ended when her right-side fallopian tube had to be removed after it ruptured. After the patient became pregnant again four years later she came in for a clinic visit because she was spotting and having left-sided flank pain with nausea and vomiting.

She revealed to the nurse midwife her history of a prior ectopic pregnancy that had led to removal of a fallopian tube.

The nurse midwife filled out a referral form for a sonogram for her patient to go for right away, but the form never left the patient's chart, the patient never went for the sonogram and the nurse midwife did not look for the results or even follow up to see if she had had the sonogram.

Six days later the patient was diagnosed in the E.R. with an ectopic pregnancy and a ruptured fallopian tube which had to be removed at the hospital.

She now cannot conceive naturally although she can, at least in theory, still conceive by *in vitro* fertilization.

The nurse midwife did not see to it that a sonogram was done. That and other testing, if done promptly, could have determined it was another ectopic pregnancy in time to save her fallopian tube.

The patient should have been informed her symptoms were consistent with another ectopic pregnancy and sent immediately to the emergency room.

CIRCUIT COURT
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
March 23, 2010

The jury in the Circuit Court, Baltimore, Maryland returned a verdict of \$2,500,000 for the patient. Williams v. Hemphill, 2010 WL 4633368 (Cir. Ct. Baltimore, Maryland, March 23, 2010).