

Foley Catheter Dislodged: Large Verdict For The Patient's Estate.

The sixty-two year-old patient was admitted to the nursing home in a comatose state after having suffered two strokes.

Ten days after he arrived his penis began bleeding heavily. He was rushed to a nearby hospital's E.R.

The assessment at the hospital was traumatic injury from a Foley catheter. The physician also diagnosed urosepsis, low blood pressure and dehydration.

The patient died the next morning in the hospital.

The only plausible explanation for the patient's traumatic injury is mishandling of the patient while he was being turned by the nursing home's care staff.

CIRCUIT COURT
MARION COUNTY, ALABAMA
June 18, 2009

The family's lawyers presented expert testimony from a forensic pathologist. His opinion was that the trauma came from forcible pulling of the Foley catheter bulb through the patient's urethra. That had to have happened while he was being turned by the nursing home's nurses aides.

The family's nursing experts went on to fault the nursing home for failing to train its staff to secure the Foley tubing to the patient's leg to prevent traction being applied and for failing to instruct the aides in proper technique for turning a comatose patient with a Foley catheter.

The nursing home's medical experts disputed whether the injury, as opposed to his underlying medical issues, was the actual cause of the patient's death.

The jury in the Circuit Court, Marion, County Alabama accepted the family's experts' version of the facts and awarded the family \$2,500,000. ***Rhodes v. GGNSC, 2009 WL 4932458 (Cir. Ct. Marion Co., Alabama, June 18, 2009).***