

Labor & Delivery: Nurses Waited To Phone Ob/Gyn.

The mother reportedly was having labor contractions when she checked into the hospital the evening before her scheduled cesarean delivery.

She was considered a high-risk obstetric patient based on a history of placental abruption in a prior pregnancy.

Ob/Gyn Was Not Informed Of High-Risk Patient's Arrival

The obstetrician at the hospital was reportedly not advised that a high-risk patient in labor had checked into the hospital, and left the hospital to go home for dinner.

The labor and delivery nurses monitoring the patient's labor began to see signs of fetal distress. Fifteen minutes after signs of trouble were first seen the fetal heart rate dropped below 90 and at that point the nurses phoned the obstetrician to come to the hospital. The obstetrician arrived twenty-five minutes later. The mother had had another placental abruption.

The jury in the Superior Court, King County, Washington returned a verdict of \$4,250,000 for the child who has cerebral palsy and only a twenty-one year life expectancy. **Tavares v. Evergreen Hosp., 2008 WL 5020967 (Sup. Ct. King Co., Washington, September 8, 2008).**