

Twin Delivery: Nurses Ruled Not At Fault.

The patient was admitted to the hospital by her obstetrician.

An ultrasound at the hospital revealed that she was carrying twins, one in a normal vertex position, the other in an inverted breech position.

The obstetrician, assisted by two hospital labor and delivery nurses, delivered the normally-positioned vertex baby relatively quickly and without complications.

With the second baby, however, things did not go smoothly. The doctor deemed it necessary to go ahead with external version, that is, he had both nurses push on the abdomen while he also pushed with one hand and reached in with the other to reorient the baby head-first.

The monitors had to be removed be-

The patient must prove the link between negligence and harm to the patient.

It was inconclusive that caregivers' negligence damaged the baby's brain.

SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
August 31, 2007

cause they were in the way. The mother complained vigorously that the procedure was very painful and insisted they stop and do a cesarean.

The second baby was born with water filling both brain hemispheres. He lived in a vegetative state until he died at age six.

The Supreme Court of Alabama threw out the jury's \$3,800,000 verdict. The court found no basis for the patient to claim that by taking off the monitors, not getting blood gases, etc., the nurses were neglecting to monitor the course of labor during the second delivery or to claim that stopping the whole process in favor of a cesarean was realistic at the point she started complaining. ***Long v. Wade, __ So. 2d __, 2007 WL 2459976 (Ala., August 31, 2007).***