

Patient who suffered stroke settles claim for \$3.5M

■ BY BILL CRESENZO

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Stafford



Blakeney

A woman who didn't receive timely treatment for a stroke she suffered while she was recovering from breast reconstruction surgery has confidentially settled a claim against the treating hospital for \$3.5 million, her attorneys report. Troy Stafford of Devore, Acton & Stafford in Charlotte and Troy Blakeney of Houston, Texas, report that their client, whose name was withheld due to a confidentiality agreement, had suffered from breast cancer and entered the hospital in May 2019 for reconstructive surgery, which was performed without complications. Shortly after, though, she developed one-sided hand weakness that progressed to full-side weakness, facial drooping, and loss of speech, which are all signs of a stroke.

The client's family members and pastor reported the symptoms to the hospital's nursing staff, which documented the symptoms but failed to flag them, figuring that they were being caused by morphine, Stafford said. The nurses didn't report the symptoms to the attending physician for 24 hours, by which point it was apparent that the client had suffered a stroke. She suffered complete and permanent use of one arm, limited

use of one leg, and permanent loss of speech.

Stafford said that the hospital claimed that a brain bleed caused the stroke and couldn't have been stopped, but imagery showed that the stroke actually was caused by a brain clot that developed into the brain bleed, and if doctors had immediately started treatment of the stroke symptoms, they would have caught the clot before it caused bleeding of the brain. Stafford said that the client is now living with her daughters and "overall, she is ok." He said that the settlement will pay for much-needed rehabilitation therapy.

Due to the confidentiality agreement, the name of the hospital and its attorneys were unavailable.

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SETTLEMENT REPORT — MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Amount: \$3.5 million

Injuries alleged: Permanent loss of use of one arm, limited use of one leg, and permanent loss of speech

Case name: Confidential

Court: Confidential

Date of settlement: Dec. 20

Attorney for plaintiff: Troy Stafford of Devore, Acton & Stafford in Charlotte and Troy Blakeney of Houston, Texas

Attorney for defendant: Withheld