

JANE DOE, a minor, vs. DOE HOSPITAL and ROW OBSTETRICIAN

At week 29 of her first pregnancy, Jane Doe's mother began leaking amniotic fluid. Her obstetrician did not feel she was leaking fluid. However, he told her to insert a tampon to determine if it was amniotic fluid or urine. The next morning, Jane's mother began feeling cramps and noticed that she had lost additional fluid. Her obstetrician, already at the hospital, told her to come in. Upon arrival the admitting department was dark. It took forty five minutes before they arrived in labor and delivery. Unfortunately their obstetrician had left for the dentist to have his teeth cleaned. For thirty minutes, the nurses mistakenly interpreted a heart tone of 60 as being the mother's, instead of that of the fetus. When the physician finally arrived, a sonogram was performed showing an agonal fetal heart rate in the 40's and an emergency C-section was performed. The child was born profoundly depressed and suffers from significant brain injury. Christian Searcy, Greg Barnhart and Todd Stewart negotiated a settlement on the eve of trial for \$5.5 million. ■