

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 21 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

2020, I was a 29 year-old first time pregnancy. The Hospital was undergoing major renovations during my pregnancy, and COVID-19 which prompted me to use my private health insurance.

I met with an obstetrician, expressed my desire to have a vaginal birth. I was exercising, walking daily and eating well. I am considered plus-size but I was very healthy and my blood work and mild weight-loss during the pregnancy was promising.

My final scan at around 35 weeks showed a significant shift in measurements and “query macrosomic baby”. I was sure this was not accurate, as the last scan was not showing these kinds of measurements and it wasn’t too long between my scans. Additionally, my family has known benign brachycephalic babies (big heads), although my maternal family have all had successes in vaginal births. I was told that the baby was chubby. I said that I wanted to pursue a vaginal birth or a trial of labour, not straight to a c-section. I was told “you pay me a lot of money to make decisions for you, and I won’t be looking after you if you want a trial of labour.” I had just paid the non-refundable bulk payment that we killed ourselves to save to have care at the private. I had the c-section at 40 weeks pregnant, and had a baby that was smaller in weight than what was estimated 5 weeks earlier. I am devastated. I have had a failed induction and another c-section and my discharged paperwork says “not for vaginal birth or trial of labour again if another pregnancy.” I feel mutilated, I suffer daily, I feel like I am not a woman and I have connection issues with my babies. I will never recover.