

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

February 19th, 2012, I began my first labor at home. We phoned the hospital as I was booked for an induction only hours later. They told me to come in when I was about 5 mins apart in contractions. It was scary, but my husband calmed me down and got me into the bath. My contractions were fast and not knowing anything and being worried we went to the hospital. We were slowly welcomed. I felt like I needed immediate attention, yet I wasn't supported this way. It didn't feel like that to the staff, they were quite casual about it all. I was admitted into a birthing room, and my husband began to prepare the room. Not once did we get guidance or attention from a midwife. I had a Doppler on and wanted to get it the bath. My husband called someone and they talked us through and then left again. The pain was getting worse but I was comfortable in the bath.

We were told to move as much as possible, so my husband helped me to the shower. The pain was unbearable and he asked for gas. It was given to us and then the midwife walked away without even explaining anything to us. I was so frightened I had begun panic, I knew the pain was worse because I was in panic but no one was there to calm me down or talk me through and my husband was worried. I wanted an epidural. We were now up to 9 hours of active labour. I was asked several times if I was sure, and the Dr finally came. It was only then that a midwife came and helped me calm down so they could get the needle in. I Remember asking "where have you been this whole time?" I knew if she was there isouldnt be in this moment right now, but it was too late. But always not wanting to upset anyone. After about 20 hours of being awake and labouring,

I had no guidance on what to do. My OB still hadnt come in. I began vomiting for pain, and I was told I was fully dialated. My baby was in some distress and they told me after 23 hours I needed to get him out. I was told I either push him in the operation theatre or just have ceasearan. It was near 6pm and the Dr wanted to go home. We paid \$9k for this Dr. I was given zero support to birth my baby comfortably, and no guidance on what to do if there was a problem. They didn't follow our birth plan. They never talked me through anything that was happening to me or my baby. At birth my baby was taken from me, and I was sent to recovery for 2 hours. My husband was with the baby and they just left him in the hospital room with no one for the whole time. He didn't pick the baby up as he was worried he might do the wrong thing. For two hours my baby had no milk or hugs. I begged in recovery for them to take me to him.

When they finally did, I got to feed him and hug him. The next week in hospital was saved by only one midwife who sat and held my hand while I cried. Helped me feed. Cuddled my baby with me. One. I suffered post natal depression for 12 months, where I wanted to end my life many times. My baby saved me every time. My husband saved me. No one from that hospital cared. And not knowing what had happened to me, I went back there. Told I couldn't have a vbac. No reasons. No reasons what happened to my body or baby. I asked and asked. The pain it has caused my family and the anxiety we all still hold is so hard. It's not good enough. I hope my story brings people to justice and accountability.