

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

My name is _____ and I have 3 children, 5, 3 and 12 months.

My children were all born at _____ hospital and I had forceps with my first and natural births my other 2.

With my 3rd child's birth, it didn't go quite to as planned as I hoped! I was 38 1/2 weeks pregnant when my waters broke while I was at home. I rang the hospital and informed them and went in to be checked.. they put the monitor on me and I explained all that had happened. As my contractions had not started they asked what would I like to do. (My waters broke with my 2nd child and it was 6 hours after that any contractions had started) so I said I may as well go home and wait for the contractions. We drove back to our home about 15/20 mins away when as soon as I got home my contractions started hard and fast. I told my husband that we needed to go back in straight away.. we drove straight back to the hospital and I knew baby wasn't far away. The time was after 11:30pm not sure of the exact time but I am thankful it was late at night. I ran towards the back door entrance, leaving my husband who was carrying my bags. I pressed the door bell waiting for the doors to open. As the doors wouldn't open the security guard finally came out and opened the doors for me. I kept telling him my baby was coming and needed help. I took one step into the door way and I felt my baby head coming out. I started screaming and yelling asking the security guard to please get someone please! From this point all I remember is seeing chairs against the walls and knew I had to get over towards that way, so I ran. I managed to hold onto the hand rail and kept asking the security guards and now wards men who were all standing there to please get someone. I could not control the contractions and had to push. While standing up and with one push my baby was in my pants, and still no doctor, nurse, anyone to help. My husband was in utter shock and couldn't believe what was happening, and was unsure what to do. As I was also in shock I had to keep asking them, yelling, to get someone, anyone, as my baby was now in my pants and my legs were like jelly. I felt that everyone was just standing there watching me, unsure what to do. My husband who says he felt had a shot of adrenaline, helped me pull down my pants and delivered our son in the back foyer of _____ hospital. When he pulled the baby out, while I stood there with no pants on and stunned security guards and wardsmen just standing there watching me, My husband holding the baby noticed he was purple, limp and wasn't seem to be breathing and was tangled in the cord. This scared my husband so much, he says he could not breath and started yelling and panicking as there was still no nurses no doctors, but knew he had to help our son and myself. Finally a nurse came running around the corner with some gowns as that's all she could find. She was from the emergency department. She helped by rubbing and patting our son who then finally started crying. She gave me a gown to put around my waist and I finally got to sit down in a wheelchair. The nurse gave me my baby and put a gown around him. I heard the wardsmen say they tried called birthing unit but was unable to get through. The wardsmen pushed us straight up to the birthing unit where we were met with a doctor and a midwife who said they never received a phone call from security and seemed quite blasé about the whole situation.

I am just so thankful that my son was ok and we were blessed that nothing major went wrong or happened to my son (except for a few bruises on his poor little face)

As I thought about all of this, as I do nearly everyday, it was the most intense, stressful, scariest thing I've ever done in my life. I felt so alone without the medical help I needed and

thought I would receive with having a baby. I still can't believe it. I never once thought that's how I would birth my child.

i feel there was a lack of communication and still can't figure out why a nurse or doctor couldn't have come immediately to help us. Once all the blur was over I also thought why I was never given an internal check when I came in for when my waters where broken? They would of seen that I was dilated and I wouldn't had never left the hospital.

I have been told by familywho work at the hospital that the security and wardsmen who were on shift that night were all in shock and felt bad as they didn't know how to help, also that they wanted to keep a baby kit in the security room with blankets as they didn't have anything. If this is so, I'm glad I've helped the next lady this may happen to but I just hope for more communication and someone will help with the birth of her child.