

Submission
No 90

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Ms Samantha Muir

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Partially
Confidential

I gave birth to my daughter on the 1st of July 2022 at _____ Hospital. This was the most traumatic experience of my life and I still suffer physical pain one year later. My active labour started approximately 10pm, this is when I asked for an epidural pain relief, which I was refused and given morphine shot 45min later.

My labour ramped up quickly after this and I started pushing at 11:50pm. I kept telling them it was painful but was told to keep pushing which I did. My daughter was born at 12:15am. I was then assessed by the doctor who told the midwife I had 4 internal tears 1 being a third-degree tear then bilateral labial tearing and a tear that connects all three running in the opposite direction. I also had a retained placenta as it tore when the midwife tried to remove it. When the doctor was finished examining my vagina, he slapped my vagina together and scolded the midwife for not doing her job correctly. The midwife then put in a catheter but didn't strap it to my leg, so when I was taken to theatre and moved onto the operating table the catheter pulled and was painful. I mentioned this to the surgeon, and he argued with me it was connected.

The anaesthetist stepped in and told him to look and then looked and realised it wasn't. After surgery I was left in recovery room for an hour as no one from maternity would come and collect me, so the recovery room staff had to get someone to take me back to maternity room. I finally got my daughter at 4am. Her father informed me he was left with her for the duration of my surgery, and she did not receive milk or clothing during this time, and no one came into the delivery room to check on him or her for 3 hrs after I was taken to theatre. After surgery they took my leg compression off and did not replace them.

I was in hospital for 4 days after the birth and could not walk due to the pain I felt. I was discharged on day 4 and had to return that evening due to pain in my calf. When I was discharged the maternity staff informed me to keep the leg compressions on, I told them I wasn't given any and they went and got a pair for me. When I called the maternity ward about my calf pain, I was told due to the leg compressions being removed it could be a clot and return to emergency. I was not allowed to leave for 23hrs as I had to wait for an ultrasound to be issued. This is the day my milk came in and I was very emotional as I hadn't spent any quality time with my daughter and was now stuck in emergency while she was home, due to their negligence for not putting my leg compressions back on after surgery.

After I left emergency, I suffered months of physical pain and discomfort. I bleed for 8 weeks very heavily, and I had to receive multiple internal ultrasounds as there was still placenta inside of me. The only thing written on my medical report with _____ hospital is a third-degree tear. One year later I finally received a phone call to book in for follow up ultrasounds with _____ hospital to receive an Enoanorectal Ultrasound. When I called to book this in 8 weeks after the birth, I was informed the ultrasound machine was broken and it would take months to get a replacement one. I received the phone call last week to book this in.

It is still incredibly painful for me to have sex and I will never have another child as I don't want to experience this trauma again.

I suffered post-natal depression and major panic attacks that have required me to be hospitalised. I am now on a high doses of anti-depressants due to this matter.

I give permission to have my name printed on the submission.

Kind Regards,

Samantha.