

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I went into labour with my now four year old late in the evening. I stayed home, not wanting to contact the hospital too early and also living 45 minutes away. By the early morning I was still getting regular contractions and called the hospital. I went in to get checked, but it was still early days at 2cm dilated. I was not dilating after hphrs and hphrs and pain. The afternoon came and the pain was excruciating. I was simply told I was doing well and that it would take time. I slowly got to 4cm dilated, then hours, got to 6cm dilated. I was vomiting in the shower from the pain and was finally offered gas for the first time. I asked for more help and what I could do to ease the pain and progress in my labour. I was told by the midwife that I was not going to get anywhere if I didn't stop tensing up. That was her advice to me.

I had been in agony for over a day at this point. Time went on and I just could not deal with the pain any more. I had burning hot pain in my back, stomach and upper legs. I had not been urinating and the midwife asked once at 6cm if I had been to the bathroom. I asked for the epidural at 6cm dilated. One and a half hours after reading the epidural, the baby went into distress. The probe to have a more precise of baby's heartrate was placed on my son's head. I was taken for an emergency c-section. My bladder needed to be checked during the c-section, as the doctor was concerned there may have been some damage.

My baby boy was born at 10.26am, two days after going into labour. He took about 30 seconds to move or make a sound. He was very tired. I could not hold him, so he was pressed against me and then was taken away to be monitored and my husband stayed with him in the special care nursery for 1.5 hours. I will never forget the way I was treated by my wildlife and am now in my second session of my nursing degree.

I plan on advocating for the person in my care, treating them as an individual. I could not feel any sensation as needed to urinate for 6 months, with it slowly returning. I was depressed and alone after this experience. I felt like a failure. We MUST treat birthing mothers better, we must do better.