

Submission
No 189

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Kacie Bostock

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Partially
Confidential

My experience of obstetric abuse was with my VBAC birth at _____ Hospital in 2020. Not long after I arrived at hospital in labour, I signed a form to say I did not want continual fetal monitoring, vaginal exams or a cannula. I had laboured amazingly well for around 3 hours at the hospital without needing these things. The midwife looking after me, had one questionable reading of my baby's heart rate so in this instance I agreed to be put on the CTG monitoring to check his welfare. All was well with him.

Minutes from his head crowning, the doctor on call, came in and proceeded to tell me that I should have had an IV in and an epidural in case of needing an emergency caesarean because of uterine rupture. She said I should have had CTG. At this point I was actually strapped into the CTG monitor! I looked around for support, and realised I was going to have to stand up and say something for myself to which I told her to 'This conversation needs to end so I can focus on birthing my baby' She was very taken aback by my response and proceeded to say, that the letter I had signed was no good and I would need to sign another. She ripped up my original form and I signed the other after the fact. My baby was born, and probably an hour afterwards

I was signing another form to say I was declining CTG, IV and Vaginal examinations? After my baby was born my husband told me, that same doctor had pulled him into the hallway daringly labour, to try to get him to change my mind about the CTG and IV cannula. She told him that his wife or baby could die without it. This was my husbands first experience of birth and it was ruined for him with the thought being placed in his head about our safety, which was NEVER in jeopardy. She could not coerce me into doing what she wanted, so she thought she would try and coerce my husband instead to get what she wanted. What this doctor did was completely uncalled for and unjust. She tainted the birth of our son with her lack of faith in the physiology of birth. I had made my decisions with evidence based knowledge, which CTG and a cannula on arrival are not evidence based practises.

These are my rights as a patient of the hospital to decline. It is also my right to have been given all of the information about these practices the doctor wanted me to consent to, which she did not. Luckily I had done very extensive research prior. I fear there would be a LOT of other women not so lucky. I hope they are sharing their experiences. What we experienced was not ok, but I'm sure there are many other women and partners left much less well off than us.