

Submission
No 208

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Miss Emily Stonestreet

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Partially
Confidential

My name is Emily, I am a mother to 5 children.

My first birthing experience was in 2011 at the _____ Hospital under the care of an Obstetrician. The night I was admitted to hospital to give birth after going into labour was the night I nearly lost my first born due to understaffing and incompetence amongst the staff. 3 other births were taking place around the same time that my baby was in severe fetal distress and only when the obstetrician was finally called after my requests all night to please call him (which were denied) did he finally enter the room. The situation became an Emergency response with over 20 medical staff descending into the room immediately. He questioned why none had called him earlier. The obstetrician had to cut me open telling my husband not to watch. He then used an instrument to get my baby out as a matter of absolute emergency. I was left severely traumatised, I had over 60 stitches, I couldn't walk for 3 weeks without being in agony and my baby spent the first week in special care nursery away from me as a result of the trauma he went through in the birth canal. Had more staff been on duty that night I don't believe the events that took place would have occurred. I was left in a room alone for hours on end in absolute sheer pain, with no one to help me birth my baby or talk me through what my body was going through, perform life saving check ups on my baby during my labour or recognise that help was required.

Moving forward to 2019 at _____ hospital under the care of a different obstetrician and I was led to become paranoid about my pregnancy and pushed to deliver my baby early at 37 weeks even though the baby and myself were extremely well. I was informed I was considered high risk as of my age (I was only 35). I believe this obstetrician has a track record for pushing women into delivering early so she can be in control and have her diary how she wants it. This obstetrician is also known for pushing c-section births on women.

When I was admitted to be induced the midwife questioned why I was being induced early and I said I had no reason other than I was told to.

I was induced, my labour didn't progress, I was given the drip to progress my labour, my baby became stuck and once again I was in severe agony, the obstetrician hadn't picked up that I had a condition that birthing women can be susceptible to as I hadn't been checked properly in an exam which then meant I was told not to push when my body wanted to push as they were waiting for the cervical lip to go down, during this process the obstetrician had her entire hand and fist inside of me, the baby was eventually born and I severely haemorrhaged and was taken to surgery for 3 hrs and separated from my baby and the joy of having a new baby and the bonding that should have taken place. I was screamed at by the obstetrician to never have another baby again, I was made to feel like I might die, she panicked, she was completely out of control of the situation and it was extremely traumatising. I didn't sleep for weeks and suffered severely in my recovery. I was so weak for weeks on end and struggled to complete everyday normal tasks. I believe my post birth care was appalling and when I went to a gynaecologist for my 6 week check up he informed me my pelvic floor had been damaged during the birth by someone who took no care with my body. I believe I hemorrhaged as a result of the incompetent obstetrician and also believe she should have called for help sooner and the situation at hand would have been a different outcome. I put a complaint into the hospital over her conduct to which she then lied in her response. She claimed I had asked to be induced as of severe back pain. A lie, I never experienced any back pain. I believe if I hadn't been pushed into an induction then the birth would have turned out differently and had she called for an emergency response sooner then I may not have haemorrhaged.