

Submission
No 214

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I had just turned 22 years old when I was due to have my son in 2015. I was young, scared and put all my trust in the midwives, nurses and doctors. At 36 weeks I presented to the hospital with reduced fetal movement. Drs weren't concerned. I returned to the hospital a couple of days later as I still wasn't feeling my baby move. Drs decided I should present to the hospital each day for monitoring. At 38 weeks, after 2 weeks of reduced fetal movement I was induced.

During my son's labour my husband, my midwife and a student midwife were present. My son's heart rate was abnormal and I was told baby was in distress throughout the labour. His head was delivered a while before his body and the cord was around his neck twice. He was born flat with an apgar score of 0. He required resuscitation and was whisked away to the special care nursery. He was put on oxygen for an hour and when I finally got to see him the nurses had already fed him formula and given him a dummy. Both of those were things I didn't want for my baby and was never asked.

The next morning he was taken for an ultrasound on his brain to check everything was OK. When he was brought back to me I was told he might be delayed but nothing to worry about. I put all my trust in the drs and i feel they failed me and left me in the dark. The anxiety of my son's traumatic birth caused depression and anxiety. I would need to count my son's breaths and constantly check he was breathing. I had severe anxiety during my 2nd pregnancy and would often have nightmares she was stillborn.

During my 2nd pregnancy my midwife read notes from my 1st pregnancy and apologised for the lack of care and urgency from the drs and nurses. This made me want to know the exact details of my son's birth so I paid for his records to be released from the hospital. The ultrasound report stated mild HIE, his heart rate kept dropping throughout labour etc alot of things that were never mentioned to me. An emergency csection should have been called to prevent this. My son is 7 yrs old now and has severe autism and a moderate intellectual disability.

The anxiety from my traumatic birth still lingers.