

Submission
No 509

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

First birth 2017. Arrived at hospital in labour only to find out my baby was breech therefore an emergency c section was called. After my baby was born my husband was rushed out of the room with her while i was being stitched up. It was hours before i was able to see them. They took me out of theatre and left me in a room, the only way to describe it was there were lots of hospital equipment around in the room, almost like a storage room / cupboard. No one tended to my husband up in the post natal ward either, he had no idea where i was or if i was ok.

Second birth 2020. Throughout this pregnancy i was extremely determined to have a VBAC and it was important to me that this happened. The hospital made me have appointments with one of their doctors throughout my pregnancy and i also had seperate appointments with midwives. The doctor seeing me was happy for me to have a vbac however as my pregnancy progressed his stance started to change. I kept having things mentioned to me like, we need to book an induction or another c section to which i declined. He also told me that i needed to cancel all my appts with my midwives and only see him which i did. Luckily my midwives noticed and called me straight away to ask what happened, they did not understand why he would want that and i kept my remaining appts with the midwives.

I ended up going " overdue " much to the doctors annoyance, again i was being pressured to an induction or c section, it was at my last appointment with this doctor he told me if i dont book either one of these my baby will not have a heartbeat by the next appointment. What sort of doctor threatens that your baby will be dead if we dont do what they say?!!

I agreed to being monitored a few days later and that was it.

Upon that appt they noticed my fluid was low and ordered me to go to the labour ward straight away.

Whilst in the labour ward i had a doctor come in (a different one to who i had been seeing throughout my pregnancy) and asked for consent to a vaginal examination, i said yes.

While being examined i suddenly felt alot of pain and screamed out. The doctor looked up at me and said very casually " oh we've just given you a bit of a stretch and sweep "

They did this WITHOUT MY CONSENT!!

I did not go into labour until the following day, even through the birth there were doctors pressuring me into doing things such a the scalp clip to monitor my baby which i declined, i wasn't " allowed " to go in the bath, i was only " allowed" to use the shower for a very limited time.

My only saving grace throughout that pregnancy and birth was my beautiful student midwife, i dont think i couldve done it without her. She had my back through and through. She gave me strength and support and iam so grateful for that.