

Submission
No 471

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I was about 7 months when I was finally taken seriously that I couldn't breathe properly. Nurse _____ at _____ hospital on the number I was given if I felt like I had any complications, told me I had a breathing problem, not a baby problem and to go to my gp. I ignored her because my mother is also a midwife and told me to go to emergency. I went to emergency, they shunted me to the maternity ward after the asthma test came back negative.

I was ignored for almost 8 hours until I felt with a dr that didn't believe I was anything other than normal pregnancy discomfort. He did order some tests. They did it in the wrong order so instead of checking my legs for blood clots, they checked my lungs first and because of the radiation from my lungs, the stenographer reasonably refused to check my legs for 24 hours. But then a huge amount of people came into my room, including the head of something and told me I had what they believed was a constellation of blood clots across both of my lungs and suddenly they believed me that I couldn't, for months at this point and constantly dizzy and seeing black spots, that I couldn't breathe.

I met with multiple departments and was told my pregnancy was treated as high risk. Turns out it wasn't. There was no central file for my case. How do I know this? Because I was on heavy blood thinners and part of the birth plan was to come in a day early and come off them I I could have an epidural. This was really important to me because in 2011 I survived a violent rape and I was struggling with having being touched down there and pain down there in general. This was disclosed in the initial nurse meeting and I wanted a csection but I was talked out of it by the nurses despite also having a fibroid close to my uterus. They said it wasn't close enough. But I really advocated for myself constantly that I didn't want a vaginal birth and my mental health needed a csection. But I was convinced by the nurses I would have all the meds available to feel as little as possible.

So back to my induction. I came in a day early to come off blood thinners and the doctor told me she could induce me a day earlier. My midwife mother who worked at _____ Private and with several obstetricians, was there and we both questioned her, but she and her colleagues said it was fine, despite our concerns, and I would be able to get the epidural and all the pain killers.

My mum had to go to work, several hours after I was induced, anaesthesiologist called _____ came in and told me I couldn't have an epidural or any pain meds besides the gas, and told me it was my fault because I wasn't clear enough about the VERY CLEAR concerns me and my mother who had been a midwife for 40 years had been really clear about, as if it was my fault they didn't adequately assess my medical information. I hate that man to this day and to treat a vulnerable woman in that state like that, his license should be revoked. End of story, if you practice medicine to be that slimy and fault blaming on the victim you belong in jail and at the very least licence revoked. The father of my child was a witness to him blaming me for the hospital's mistake.

So then me in 2019, a violent rape survivor from 2011, water broken and staring to have contractions, was told I would have to feel everything. My worst nightmare of how this pregnancy could go.

The very little the gas did, they were slow to replace. They told me because of my situation they could get me my c-section. I wasn't a priority so I waited over four hours, no water, or anything so I could have my C-section, vomiting from the pain and trauma, and then they told me it was too late and I was too dilated and it was time to push. Thankfully my mum could come back and she was my coach. She got me through one of the worst experiences of my entire life, but then I was holding my daughter for the first time and my placenta didn't separate.

I was holding my daughter for the first time trying to be calm as I was experiencing horrific pain as she pressed and pushed. Instead of taking me

To theatre, they did what felt like a knife in my insides for around 45 minutes. My midwife mother thought she was watching me die. No pain killers. Then they had to stitch me up. Finally a local. Then they kept me waiting to lay down in my bed as they were busy.

Then the worst blow possible. They put what I had said in what I trusted was a confidential meeting. I was NEVER told it would be repeated on my public document, or ever again. I certainly didn't expect it as it had NOTHING to do my pregnancy so May years later.

Something I never wanted her to ever know. That hospital stole so much from me with my pregnancy and nearly killed me and then they did that too.

I was given a patient advocate. Who never answered the phone and then she was gone and of all people nurse who was a major part of the problem and originally told me I had a breathing problem, not a baby problem, took a meeting with me when I was told it would be with my advocate, and told me I would be given a private dr and all these other things if I used hospital again and she would put the offer in an email. Never got an email, never got a phone call returned but I did tell her in that meeting if I ever accidentally got pregnant again, I would abort and I wanted her and the doctors to know it's because of what they did to me.

Four years later I'm still not ok.