

Submission
No 615

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 7 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

2-12-2017 - [REDACTED] Hospital

41 Weeks

2nd Child

I presented at [REDACTED] hospital on 2-12-17 at around 5:30pm with contractions around 3 minutes apart. I was put in a triage room, checked and monitored for around an hour. In that time my contractions got a lot more intense and painful. (My first birth was unmedicated so I had a good idea of where my body was at). The nurse advised me that I was not in labour because my contractions were only lasting 40 seconds. There was a lot of poor attitude and disrespect that came with the refusal to admit me and only offer panadeine forte, I was sent home and told to come back when the contractions are longer.

I pleaded with her to admit me and told her that the pain had changed and moved to my back. She refused and I was sent home around 7:15pm. We arrived home around 7:30pm and I was in excruciating pain. After trying to have a bath I got out and needed to push. My husband called an ambulance and he was directed on what to do. I gave birth to my son on our bathroom floor at 7:59pm just myself and my husband, less than 45 mins after being sent home. I was very grateful that my son was born with little complication. The ambulance arrived around 5 minutes later. I was haemorrhaging (as I did with my first birth) so I was directed to breastfeed to attempt to slow down the bleeding.

I was transported back to [REDACTED] hospital, overwhelmed, traumatised and exhausted. The blood loss was unknown because a lot of it had gone down the drain at home. I spent only one night in hospital and was discharged 3-12-17. In the following days we went to fill out the yellow forms to register my sons birth and noticed that the staff had falsified the document stating the place of birth as [REDACTED] hospital and delivered by a doctor on duty. Signed and all. It even included my sons apgar score after 1 minute! We wanted our home address to be the place of birth and we had to do a statutory declaration to change it.

At first the shock of having to give birth in such a intense and stressful situation was all that I focused on. After sometime, the negligence and attempt to cover up mistakes are more concerning. There were multiple reasons why I should not have been sent home in the first place. I was 41 weeks, this was my second baby, I haemorrhaged in my first birth, I fainted in the shower after my first birth or just the complete disregard to listening to the women about to give birth and realising she understands her body more than you do. Most of the above should be first hand information for a midwife to review prior to making a decision. We moved house after the birth of my son because I couldn't go into the bathroom without getting overwhelmed with emotion.

I am not one to complain and go on about things, But now that I have a daughter, I never want her to go through unnecessary trauma.