

Submission  
No 576

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am 32 and gave birth to my first child on Nov 2, 2018. I chose to have a private OB for this process and I birthed in a public hospital, [REDACTED] Hospital. My OB was distant and curt throughout my appointments and told me I would have to be induced once I was 10 days overdue, I was not given an option to go over these 10 days. I went into the hospital to be induced and received the tape at noon. I was given a padded chair to sit down in as no beds were available. I was still in this chair by 9pm as no beds had become available. I asked a midwife if I could go home as I wasn't feeling contractions and I wasn't able to sleep and was worried I would have no rest before I laboured. The midwife said she would allow this but would have to ok it with my OB. My OB refused me permission to leave and I left signing a waiver that I understood this was against medical advice. I returned to hospital the next day at 6am with no advancement. At noon my waters broke and at approximately 2pm I asked for an epidural as I was measured at 3cm and was vomiting and very uncomfortable. My OB was called and immediately berated me for risking my baby's life. She did a physical examination of me and snapped to the midwife that I was in fact only 2cm. She told me that I needed to gather myself as the pain was going to get much worse. I asked for the epidural and she told the midwife to turn the drip up immediately as "we are going to give birth to this baby by dinner". as she left my midwife said she refused to make me suffer unnecessarily and wouldn't turn the drip up until I received the epidural. I felt like my OB held this grudge against me through the delivery and was curt with me when pushing. I was told quickly that I would need a forcep assisted delivery and I felt she was frustrated when I asked to have one more contraction to try and push. After I gave birth, the midwife approached me in the ward to tell me that I should not have been treated that way by the OB, it was absolutely unacceptable, and I should have been heard and supported by her instead. I didn't feel like I had a voice or any say in my delivery. I would have preferred to go up to 14 days overdue with my baby before I was forced into an induction. I felt weak and judged for asking for an epidural and not progressing in my dilation. I was berated during contractions and spoken to like a naughty child. I have since had an extremely transformative and powerful birth with my second child, so I know that this first birth was unacceptable and traumatic due to the OB's actions. I did not make a complaint as I have bumped into this OB twice socially and did not feel comfortable raising this, especially as I did leave the hospital when told not to.