

Submission
No 642

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I was age 24, first baby. Healthy, no complications, not overdue. No concerns. Labour was long, I was told to cover up and put a gown on which I found very odd. When it came time for my body to want to push it seemed baby's head was not coming down as they had liked. All I got was we are going to give you an episiotomy, no explanation, no do you have any questions. It wasn't a high risk situation where baby was in distress or anything. Next thing I know my vagina is cut, no warning, no anesthetic. Nothing. This was the beginning of several occasions where I was not respected. When baby arrived the placenta had not yet been delivered. I was told I would need manual removal assistance. Again no explanation of what that involved. I honestly felt like I was going to die on the bed. I was begging and pleading them to stop and to give me a minute, which was ignored, i asked my partner to tell them to stop and I was laid down flat so I couldn't see and told to use the gas and i explained I don't like the gas, I had not used it at all during my labour. The amount of blood that was coming out from my placenta being ripped from inside my body was horrific. Again. I wasn't told the placenta needs to come out now. It hadn't even been that long since I had birthed my daughter. I suffered litres of blood loss, requiring a 5 night stay in hospital and 2 units of blood transfusions. I needed assistance showering which was provided but made to walk which was barely possible from birthing to maternity. I had the most horrible nurse in the maternity ward who looked after me over the 5 days, she was grumpy, obviously hated her job. She did not listen when i told her i was having pain in my lower abdomen and it wasnt pain i had before. She told me my pain was normal but did not check that my catheter was draining and I was in excruciating pain and was ignored until I felt faint and pressed the emergency button in the bathroom and the tube was all twisted and therefore my bladder was so full but not being drained correctly. This was overlooked and not checked By her. I have flashbacks regularly of the inhumane way my placenta was ripped from my body, it was a horrific experience that I will never forget. 10 years on. It is clear as day. The lack of explanation and consent was not ok. No one ever came to talk to me afterwards and explain what happened or why the manual removal was necessary. It was never brought up that it was life or death situation and it needed to come out now. I was not given the choice of going into surgery for removal. I am disgusted that I was treated this way. I have since gone on to have 3 more babies and my lovely midwife assured me that nothing like that would ever happen under her care and it didn't. I birthed at [REDACTED] hospital on June 23rd 2013.