

**Submission  
No 783**

## **INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA**

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When I had my first child, I didn't know what to expect, obviously being a first time mum. I was induced, doctors orders, they said baby was too big & they were worried about his shoulders getting stuck. I listened, obviously, doctors know best.

So I was induced, I was 5cms & the midwife I had for the day, didn't even give me time to progress, just put the drip in straight away. I was in agony. For hours. I got the drip put in at 8am & by 12pm, she tells me that "women do this everyday & that I'm overreacting". I was getting contractions that were piling on top of each other & wasn't getting a break. I was checked again & I was still at 5cms. I begged for something for the pain, which was an epidural. I eventually got that & I could relax a little, but the midwife continued to turn my drip up so I could "hurry up & have this baby on my shift". Her shift ended, contractions were still coming on like crazy, change over happened, my new midwife looked at my drip, looked at me, freaked out, says "are you okay" I say no & she turns it off. I was getting the contractions you were supposed to get at 8-10cms when I was only 5cms.

A few hours pass & it's time to push, after an hour of waiting to see if my baby would turn (he didn't) I pushed for 2 hours. I felt a stop, in my pelvis & I said to my partner "something's wrong, that didn't feel right" my assumptions were right, he was stuck.

I was raced up to theatre to have my baby via caesarean as his heart rate was too high & mine was too low.

I get into theatre & they said "we have to be quick because there's someone waiting to come in after you" I laughed it off, not thinking they were serious. I got topped up with the spinal & my son was born. He was perfect. I got to see him for a quick second, then they said "we're gonna send baby down with dad to maternity" I thought to myself, okay, I won't be here long if they're going down. I get stitched up & go into recovery. The nurses in there were amazing, they were trying to get my baby & partner up here, so I could see my baby, but it never happened. A doctor messed up my notes for my blood cultures, I was in recovery, away from my newborn for 3 hours! They finally send me back down to maternity, I hold him for not even a minute when a nicu midwife comes in & says they have to take him to special care because he's got low sugars. Then he was gone again. I was so confused. I couldn't move because of surgery, I couldn't be with my baby because the midwives were too busy. I was so alone.

When I was finally up on my feet, I wanted to go see my baby as much as possible, I couldn't sleep & he was due for a feed in about an hour or so, so I shuffled over to special care, to walk in & be told "you need rest, I said I would come & get you when he's awake" I said I wasn't tired & just wanted to sit with him, she said "no, go back to bed. I felt like a child. Why couldn't I sit with my baby.

The overall experience with my first was horrible. It still hurts 5 years on, how they treated me. I will never forget it. It haunts my dreams. I have 2 other children now & I stood my ground, told them what I wanted & my baby wasn't leaving unless I was going with him/her. No mother should be treated this way. No human should be treated this way, by so called "health professionals".