

Supplementary
Submission
No 652a

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 3 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

In 2021 I birthed my first son after what was a fairly uneventful pregnancy. I had been seen a private OB due to infertility but as everything was tracking well she discharged me to the MGP at 12 weeks.

At 38+2 my waters broke at home - a slow leak. I contacted my midwife who said to monitor and message her in an hour. I messaged my progress and she said she would be in contact to arrange for me to come in that afternoon - I never heard from her again.

Another midwife called me to arrange for me to come in that afternoon - monitoring looked good so we arranged an appt for 7am the next day.

But at around 11pm I started having contractions. They escalated quickly and I made my way to hospital.

The second midwife examined me and proclaimed that I was fully dilated- placed me on my knees, kneeling up against the back of the bed, then left as she was at the end of a 14hr shift.

A lady I didn't know entered as my midwife. She barely spoke to me and just sat at her computer. Alarms were going off but she just kept telling my husband to silence them. Over 3 hours of pushing and I was never examined to check progress, just told I had to push harder for longer. At just over 3 hours a doctor suddenly entered the room with no explanation. I later found out she had been called to perform forceps delivery as my baby was in distress. But having seen the dr I pushed so hard and my baby was born.

I was left cuddling my baby for an hour when suddenly the dr appeared again and her and the midwife argued. My placenta had not come out and no one had discussed this or given me any medication as they believed I wanted a physiological third stage.

After medication and another 30mins I had 3 doctors and a midwife attempt a manual removal of my placenta in the delivery suite before being told I'd need to go to theatre. I had already lost so much blood they decided a spinal was not an option. They didn't even let me say goodbye to my husband or baby and the last thing they said to me was "you may need a hysterectomy".

When I awoke in recovery the first thing I asked was "did I have a hysterectomy" but no one answered.

Some time later a dr came to explain that my placenta removal was the most difficult they had experienced and my placenta came out in pieces, but they think they had it all. My haemoglobin was 48 so I required 4 units of blood. I also had a labial, clitoral and urethral tear as well as a 5cm cervical tear. I was warned about risks if I was to ever have a second baby.

At 2 weeks post Partum I passed two very large clots which I informed my midwife about- she told me to lay down and massage my uterus.

That evening I had a massive haemorrhage and had to go to hospital via ambulance. They checked my cervical tear and as that was ok they said everything was fine. I insisted on an ultrasound which revealed retained products.

I went to theatre again for another D&C. Again I required 2 units of blood and an iron transfusion as well as antibiotics.

At 6 weeks I passed another clot which I collected and was tested and confirmed to be more retained products. I insisted on another ultrasound. I was told the image was “within acceptable limits” but had ongoing bleeding issues for another 2 weeks so insisted on an ultrasound which showed even more retained products.

My private OB took me in for emergency surgery and laparoscopy.

I proceed to have ongoing bleeding issues for 10months with no follow up or support. My pelvic floor was completely ruined and I suffered PTSD. My anxiety is ongoing.

I’ve been told if I ever have another baby they will “roll out the red carpet” but that doesn’t take away the emotional, physical and psychological trauma I experienced or the impact this had on me as a person or my relationships with my son, husband, friends or family!