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Contact:

Levin & Perconti

325 North LaSalle Street, Suite 450

Chicago, IL 60654

312.332.2872

questions@levinperconti.com



Paralyzed victim of surgical error reaches \$3M settlement with neurosurgeon

CHICAGO, December 6, 2011 – [Chicago medical malpractice attorneys](#) Steven M. Levin and Jordan S. Powell announced that a Cook County medical malpractice lawsuit has settled for \$3 million. The settlement was reached between our client, an 84-year-old Palatine, IL woman, and a neurosurgeon.

On March 6, 2007, the neurosurgeon performed surgery on our client, then 78, to remove and replace a pain pump (intrathecal catheter) that was previously inserted in her spine to deliver medication to manage her back pain. According to Levin, “The neurosurgeon did not perform an adequate investigation of our client’s spine before surgery, and during the procedure, he caused irreparable damage to her spinal cord. As a result, our client is permanently paralyzed from the waist down.”

“For the past five years, our client has struggled to adapt to life without the use of her lower limbs,” said Levin. “Our client trusted the neurosurgeon to perform surgery to relieve her back pain so that she could enjoy her time with her children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, his attempt to fix her pain pump caused far greater health problems, and robbed her of her ability to walk or move around on her own.”

The [Cook County medical malpractice lawsuit](#) was filed in February 2008, and the \$3 million settlement was approved by University Of Illinois Board Of Trustees on December 2, 2011. The settlement required Board approval because the neurosurgeon is insured through the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Medical Center. However, the surgical error did not occur at UIC.

“Prior to surgery, our client was independent and lived on her own,” noted Levin. “This preventable error made her completely dependent on others. Our client’s settlement will allow her to receive ongoing medical treatment and home health support. Our team, along with our client and her family, hope that her settlement will also send a strong message to healthcare providers that substandard medical care and preventable medical mistakes will not be tolerated or go unnoticed.”

Levin & Perconti is a nationally-renowned Chicago law firm representing clients throughout Illinois in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death litigation. The [Chicago personal injury lawyers](#) at Levin & Perconti have recovered over \$400 million on behalf of clients, and are committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others. Please contact the firm at (312) 332-2872 or visit www.levinperconti.com for more information.

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