

LIBERTYVILLE REVIEW — July 20, 2006

Condell Medical Center sued over woman's death

BY MARLENE HUNT | STAFF WRITERhunt@pioneerlocal.com

A lawsuit against Condell Medical Center has been filed by the family of a Round Lake Park mother who died of heart failure after visiting the hospital emergency room Dec. 30 where she was given an X-ray and released.

According to attorneys representing the family, when the woman returned two hours later she had fluid in the sack around her heart.

The statement released by the family's attorneys said Condell claims that the X-ray taken before her death is missing.

"She died under specious circumstances," said Steven M. Levin, a Chicago attorney. "We're investigating the case to see if there is a cause of potential medical malpractice and, shockingly, it turns out crucial X-rays are missing. We feel the X-rays are an extremely important piece of evidence whether she was treated properly."

The patient's family is suing the hospital for medical malpractice, spoliation of records and wrongful death claiming the family's ability to successfully proceed with the lawsuit is substantially impaired because of the missing X-ray. Illinois law mandates the retention of all X-ray records for 5 years.

Condell officials declined to comment.

Levin said the woman is survived by two children, ages 9 and 14.

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