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Levin & Perconti Files Lawsuit against Children’s Memorial Hospital
Hospital lost tumor that held girl’s diagnosis

CHICAGO, September 12, 2008 -- Michael F. Bonamarte and Steven M. Levin of the Chicago-based law firm Levin & Perconti filed a negligence lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County yesterday against Children’s Memorial Hospital on behalf of Kara Morris of Highland Park, IL. After having surgery to remove a tumor encased in Kara’s thyroid, Children’s lost the tumor before performing a biopsy to determine if it was cancerous. This negligence caused, and continues to cause, Kara significant emotional stress and anxiety, as she will never know for certain if she does or does not have cancer.

Kara Morris was admitted to Children’s Memorial Hospital on October 11, 2006 for surgery to remove a tumor encased in her thyroid. At the time she was 16 years old. During the surgery, doctors removed the tumor and a portion of Kara’s thyroid. A week later, when Kara and her family returned to receive the biopsy results, the hospital told them that because they lost the sample, no biopsy could be performed and no determination could be made as to whether or not it was cancerous.

“We were in shock; we could not believe that the hospital we trusted to care for our daughter lost the tumor removed from her body. The tumor held all of our answers, and without it, we will never know whether she has cancer. We brought this case against Children’s Memorial so that other families do not have to go through what we are facing,” said Kara’s mother, Charlene.

Two years later, Kara is now a freshman in college at the University of Michigan, but she is still affected by this event. “There isn’t a day that goes by when I’m not thinking about it.

While I want to remain confident that everything will be okay, there is always an uncertainty because I will never get a clear answer on whether or not I have cancer,” said Kara. She undergoes ultrasounds every six months to monitor her thyroid to ensure there is no new growth or changes. In addition to stress, Kara will most likely face great difficulties obtaining individual insurance as she moves into adulthood due to her uncertain health status.

Attorneys Michael Bonamarte and Steven M. Levin of Levin & Perconti represent Kara. According to Mr. Bonamarte, “Kara is a strong girl with a bright future ahead of her. Unfortunately, she will be tormented because the tumor was lost and the biopsy was never performed. This inexcusable loss of the tumor by the hospital will cause her lifelong anxiety and undue stress.” Mr. Levin added, “Hopefully this suit will reveal where the system broke down and how it can be corrected.”

Levin & Perconti is a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death litigation. The lawyers at Levin & Perconti 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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