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7/24/08

**Levin & Perconti File a Medical Malpractice and Wrongful Death
Lawsuit for the Family of Devron Matthews**

Chicago, IL – Levin & Perconti has filed a medical malpractice and wrongful death lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County on behalf of Devron Matthews’s family after his recent death. The suit was filed on July 24, 2008.

On August 19, 2007, Devron, a known asthmatic, was taken to the emergency room at Weiss Hospital on Chicago’s north side for complaints of shortness of breath and a high fever. Despite being diagnosed with pneumonia and having a dangerous blood gas reading, Devron was not monitored properly, and his breathing status deteriorated throughout the morning. He was transferred from the Emergency Room to a non acute setting in an unstable condition. Devron went into respiratory failure and suffered a full cardiopulmonary arrest in the morning hours of August 29, 2007. During this time, his brain was deprived of oxygen and he sustained permanent brain damage.

Devron was placed life support and remained in intensive care as a result of his brain damage. After intensive care, he continued to exist in a vegetative state, always in nursing or hospital care, until his death on May 2, 2008 at age 20. Devron is survived directly by his two sisters and his mother.

Steven Levin and Michael Bonamarte of Levin & Perconti filed the case in Cook County on behalf of Devron’s family. Levin stated: “Devron came into the hospital with presenting symptoms of pneumonia and complaining of shortness of breath. The Weiss Hospital staff and his doctors did not sufficiently monitor his condition throughout his stay. He was inappropriately transferred out of the acute care setting of the ER when it

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was clear he was not stable. He was then ignored on the floor until he was found in full cardiac arrest. The failure on the part of the hospital staff and the doctors to adequately monitor and treat Devron left him severely brain damaged, and ultimately lead to his death.”

Levin added that Devron’s situation could have been drastically different had his doctors investigated his low oxygen levels and placed him on some form of respiratory support that could have delivered sufficient oxygen to his brain: “If they had simply monitored his blood gases and addressed his deteriorating respiratory status, they could have supported his breathing in time to avoid him going into cardiac arrest. Sadly, Devron laid in his hospital bed struggling to breathe and was basically ignored.”

Levin further commented on the continuity of care issues that hospitals face today: “This is a sad example of the lack of communication that occurs in busy hospital settings when patients get transferred from one floor or unit to another. Often there is insufficient information passed regarding the clinical status of patients and the level of immediate care that is needed.”

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.