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Updated 2/5: Family sues Hinsdale Hospital

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By **AMY DEIS**

A family filed a medical malpractice lawsuit Jan. 30 against Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, citing improper treatment and early discharge of a woman who later attempted suicide.

"She suffered very serious injuries and the family is seeking fair and comparable compensation," the family's attorney Steven Levin told **The Doings** on Thursday.

The family of the woman has requested to remain anonymous because of the nature of the case. Levin's law firm filed the suit on behalf of the woman's daughter.

Levin said he had psychologists and other experts in the field review the family's case. The experts agreed she did not receive proper treatment and was dismissed from the hospital too early, he said.

Hospital spokeswoman Julie Busch said the hospital has not been served with the lawsuit, although Levin's law firm, Levin and Perconti, did provide **The Doings** with a copy of the lawsuit.

Busch also said it is hospital policy not to comment on pending litigation.

The lawsuit has three counts: The woman vs. Hinsdale Hospital, negligence by Dr. Helena Muirragui and negligence by Dr. Arun Kumar.

According to the lawsuit, filed in Cook County, the following events occurred:

On Aug. 26, 2007, the woman was admitted to the hospital after trying to jump from her third-story balcony and stayed for seven days.

The doctors recommended transferring her to the Elgin Mental Health Center for constant supervision, but the center refused to admit her because it could not provide the appropriate care for her age.

The hospital then discharged her instead of keeping her at the hospital for psychiatric supervision.

Two weeks later the woman called herself an ambulance and was readmitted for abdominal pain. The family claims she displayed symptoms of depression and psychosis and that these were never addressed by hospital staff.

She was released three days later because the nurses told the woman's daughter they could no longer help her.

One week later on Sept. 25, 2007, the woman jumped from her third-floor balcony and broke several bones and suffered from severe internal bleeding.

The Hinsdale Hospital resuscitated her and then transferred her to Loyola Medical Center in Maywood. The woman spent several weeks in the intensive care unit. The woman's daughter claims her mother is unable to walk, is bed-ridden, lost her vision and needs a feeding tube.

Levin said the amount the family will seek is more than \$50,000 but that it is too early to tell how much they will ask for.

A hearing will take place at the Cook County Courthouse downtown within the next 30 days.



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