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\$6 Million Medical Malpractice Settlement with Rush Medical Center

Chicago-November 25, 2013- The family of a former Chicago woman has reached a \$6 million [medical negligence settlement](#) in a lawsuit with Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. The settlement was approved late Friday by the Honorable Randye A. Kogan, an Associate Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Attorneys Steven M. Levin, Margaret P. Battersby Black and Cari F. Silverman represented the family of the victim who suffered a brain injury at Rush.

Our clients' mother, then 58, went to the Rush Emergency Department on July 7, 2009, with progressively worsening shortness of breath, a racing heart, and episodes of vomiting. Amongst her possible diagnoses were congestive heart failure and a pulmonary embolism. An emergency room physician ordered a full cardiac workup, including a CT scan to rule out a pulmonary embolism. Our clients' mother was transported to the radiology suite where a CT scan with contrast dye was performed. Following the scan, our clients' mother was placed in the hallway by the CT technician. She asked a Rush employee if she could go to the bathroom and this employee, having no knowledge of her medical condition, medical history or recent contrast dye injection, allowed her to go to the washroom unsupervised. After an unknown period of time, another patient heard our clients' mother crying for help from the one-stall bathroom, but staff could not find a key to unlock door. The bathroom door was finally unlocked using a quarter. Despite resuscitation efforts, our clients' mother had already suffered an irreversible brain damage due to oxygen deprivation caused by respiratory distress.

The administration of contrast dye may result in a variety of adverse reactions, including respiratory distress. Therefore, hospital staff is required to closely monitor patients for at least 20 minutes following the procedure. Given the known serious adverse reactions from contrast dye, especially in a patient with Congestive Heart Failure, the staff should never have allowed our clients' mother to be in a position where she was not monitored and the staff could not provide emergent medical care. The lawsuit alleged that the contrast dye administered during the CT scan exacerbated our clients' mother's congestive heart failure causing respiratory distress. Had Rush staff been in a position where they could have monitored our clients' mother's medical condition and provided timely and appropriate care in the event of a medical emergency, she would not have sustained a hypoxic brain injury. Our clients' mother lived four years before passing away as a result of her brain injury and resulting complications.

Levin & Perconti filed a lawsuit in 2011. "Our clients wanted answers surrounding the cause of their mother's brain injury that eventually led to her death," added Levin. "They also wanted to tell their mother's story to raise awareness and put a stop to preventable medical mistakes in Chicago hospitals."

Levin & Perconti is a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of nursing home abuse and neglect, [personal injury](#), medical malpractice, and wrongful death lawsuits. The attorneys 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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