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\$4 Million Medical Malpractice Settlement with the University of Chicago

Chicago-April 15, 2013- [Chicago medical malpractice lawyers](#) John Perconti and Patricia Gifford of Levin & Perconti announced a \$4 million settlement with the University of Chicago Medical Center. Perconti and Gifford represented the family of a 22-year-old woman who died as a result of her doctor's failure to perform shunt replacement surgery in a timely manner.

In the fall of 2007, our client, then 21, went to the University of Chicago Emergency Room with a severe headache. Our client was born with a condition that required doctors to implant a shunt in her brain shortly after her birth to drain cerebral spinal fluid from her brain. Over the course of her childhood, her shunt malfunctioned several times, and each time she experienced headaches similar to the one she was having on that day. When her shunt malfunctioned, her doctors performed surgery to alleviate her pain by replacing the malfunctioning shunt.

That day, doctors gave her pain medicine and ordered her to return if her symptoms worsened. She went back to the Emergency Room later in the afternoon and doctors diagnosed her with a malfunctioning shunt. They scheduled replacement surgery for four days later and admitted her. During that time, she remained in the Emergency Room because the hospital did not have any open beds in their neurological intensive care unit. The neurosurgeon that had treated her since she was very young never came to examine her or check on her condition. One day before she was scheduled to have surgery, she suffered a brain stem herniation.

Doctors performed emergency surgery, but it was too late to reverse the brain damage she suffered when her brain stem herniated. For the next twelve months, our client remained in a coma, unable to move or communicate with her family. She died in late November 2008, just over a year after the incident.

The suit was filed in 2008. "Our client's family came to us seeking answers surrounding her tragic and untimely death," said John Perconti. "Prior to this incident, our client led a normal life and was attending college as a criminal justice major with dreams of becoming an attorney. Unfortunately, she lost these opportunities when her physicians failed to follow the standard of care to address her malfunctioning shunt in a timely manner."

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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