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**Medical Malpractice Lawsuit Filed Against Passavant Hospital in Jacksonville
39-year-old died as a result of diagnostic errors**

CHICAGO, April 29, 2013 – James Rueter, husband of Cynthia Rueter, filed a medical malpractice/wrongful death lawsuit today against Passavant Area Hospital in Jacksonville, Ill. The suit alleges that hospital staff failed to diagnose Cynthia’s heart condition, resulting in her death at the age of 39. The suit was filed in the Circuit Court of Morgan County.

On November 25, 2011, Cynthia, formerly of Bluffs, Ill. and Winchester, Ill., was admitted to Passavant Hospital with complaints of chest pain and light-headedness. An emergency physician diagnosed her with a minor medical condition and sent her home. The following day, Cynthia went to Illini Community Hospital Emergency Room still complaining of chest pain. Staff immediately transferred Cynthia to a major medical center, but she died during transport as a result of fluid build-up in her heart caused by an aortic dissection.

“My family took action to seek justice for my wife’s death,” said James. “She died needlessly, and I hope to make others aware of her death because I do not want this to happen to anyone else’s family.”

“The [medical malpractice lawsuit](#) alleges that the Passavant emergency physician failed to thoroughly evaluate and work-up Cynthia’s heart symptoms,” said Rueter’s attorney, [Steven M. Levin](#) of Levin & Perconti. “Cynthia had a heart condition which required a routinely performed heart surgery that is overwhelmingly successful in preventing death.” The emergency physician did not diagnose Cynthia’s aortic dissection in a timely manner, and she was unable to receive the surgery she needed to repair her dissection.

“Cynthia’s untimely death was the result of the emergency physician’s diagnostic errors,” said Levin. “Diagnostic mistakes are among the most common and most fatal mistakes that occur in medical settings. We have represented hundreds of victims in cases involving incorrect, missed or delayed diagnoses. In many cases, our clients eventually receive a correct diagnosis, but sadly this comes after they suffer serious complications or a decline in their condition.”

BMJ Quality & Safety, an international medical journal, recently released a [study](#) revealing that 29% of successful medical malpractice claims in the United States involve diagnostic errors. The study, conducted by Johns Hopkins researchers, has gained national media coverage. “I hope that this study will raise awareness surrounding the prevalence of diagnostic errors, with the hopes that

local hospitals will take immediate measures to reduce the incidence of these mistakes to improve patient safety,” added Levin.

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 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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