




Passavant named in malpractice suit

Published on Tuesday, 30 April 2013 07:14 |  Written by Nick Kovatch |  | 



Passavant Area Hospital and Springfield Clinic have been named in a medical malpractice lawsuit.

James Rueter, husband of Cynthia Rueter, filed the six-count medical malpractice/wrongful death lawsuit yesterday in Morgan

County Circuit Court. The suit alleges that hospital staff failed to diagnose Cynthia Rueter's heart condition, resulting in her death at the age of 39.

The lawsuit says on November 25th, 2011, Cynthia Rueter, formerly of Bluffs and Winchester was admitted to Passavant Hospital with complaints of chest pain and light-headedness. The filing claims an emergency physician; Dr. Shawn Fry, diagnosed her with a minor medical condition and sent her home. The suit states Cynthia Rueter went to Illini Community Hospital Emergency Room the following day still complaining of chest pain. Staff immediately transferred Cynthia Rueter 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.

The lawsuit alleges that Fry failed to thoroughly evaluate and work-up Cynthia Rueter's heart symptoms. It claims the emergency physician did not diagnose Cynthia Rueter's aortic dissection in a timely manner, and she was unable to receive the surgery she needed to repair her dissection. The suit alleges Cynthia Rueter died as a direct and proximate result of the hospital's negligent acts or omissions.

The suit is asking for in excess of \$50,000 to pay for funeral and medical expenses.

Rueter is represented by attorney Steven Levin of Levin & Perconti in Chicago.