

Medical Malpractice Lawsuit Says Doctors Failed to Diagnose Ectopic Pregnancy

By John Curran

A California woman alleges in a new medical malpractice lawsuit that she received improper medical care during an emergency room visit in Missouri, which led to the dangerous rupture of her ectopic pregnancy.

Plaintiff Meghan Dietz alleges she went to the emergency room at Cameron Regional Medical Center in Cameron, Missouri, on April 30 with complaints highly suggestive of an ectopic pregnancy, including significant abdominal pain. According to her lawsuit, the doctor there failed to diagnose Dietz with an ectopic pregnancy despite ordering imaging and laboratory studies that showed she was suffering from one.

An ectopic pregnancy is a life-threatening and painful condition caused by the embryo implanting outside the womb. Ectopic pregnancies are usually terminated at the earliest sign because the fetus cannot survive and the mother could suffer life-threatening internal bleeding.

A little over one week later, Dietz returned to the same hospital complaining of significant pain, and had imaging ordered by a second doctor that again showed the existence of an ectopic pregnancy, according to her medical malpractice lawsuit. Once again, the new doctor failed to diagnose her condition or treat her life-threatening and painful condition, the lawsuit says.

Following her discharge, Dietz continued to suffer immensely from the undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy, which eventually ruptured on or about May 20, 2013, according to the medical malpractice lawsuit.

The allegations of Dietz mirror those of women and families who have filed a medical malpractice lawsuit regarding a birth injury. In both types of complaints, plaintiffs allege that improper medical care resulted in a lack of treatment for dangerous conditions.

In addition, many women who have dealt with gynecological problems allege that obstetricians or other experts should be consulted and brought in to help treat any needs. The emergency room physician attending to Dietz allegedly failed to do so, according to the medical malpractice lawsuit.

Women who have an ectopic pregnancy only have a one in three chance of bringing a child to term, which could affect her quality of life. Families with disabled children often argue that birth injuries caused by improper medical care not only affect the child, but also place significant strain on the parents. If a birth injury is caused by medical negligence, these families may sue to recover compensation for medical expenses, pain and suffering, and more.

The medical malpractice lawsuit is *Meghan Dietz v. Stephanie Davis, et al.*, Case No. 13-cv-06101, U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri.

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