

\$2,375,000 Settlement Obtained Despite Vigorous Defense

GORSE v. HOSPITAL X AND DRS. CONLEN AND ZANN

Lyssa Gorse was an expectant new mother in her 34th week of pregnancy. One morning, she noticed that her baby wasn't moving as much as usual. Even though she was a gestational diabetic, her obstetrician had never warned her that this could be a matter of concern. So, when a friend explained that babies tend to move less as a pregnancy progresses, Mrs. Gorse accepted the explanation. She became more concerned as the day progressed and called her physician who told her to come to the hospital.

When Mrs. Gorse arrived at the hospital, an external fetal heart monitor was placed which showed that the baby's heart beat lacked variability. This finding was interpreted to



**The Gorse family, (Keith, Lyssa & Anna),
with Bill Norton**

mean that the baby had suffered some injury or stress which affected her ability to react and cope with the stresses of labor. A number of tests were performed which indicated that the baby was in distress, but mature enough to be delivered immediately. The doctors decided to order an Oxytocin Challenge Test (OCT) which consists of inducing labor and monitoring the baby to obtain
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her reaction to the stress of harsh, Pitocin-induced contractions. The early testimony by a delivery nurse (which was later recanted) stated that she objected to the test because it would endanger the baby's health. After an hour, it became clear that the baby had little strength left and needed to be delivered right away. The doctors were still discussing the possibility of a vaginal birth when the parents requested a Cæsarian section be performed. By this time, over seven hours had passed. As Mrs. Gorse was being prepped for surgery, the baby's vital signs crashed. The cumulative effects of the OCT

had exhausted the child's limited reserve of energy. An emergency C-section was performed. Anna Gorse was born with an Apgar of 0 and required full resuscitation. She had seizures immediately after birth and was comatose.

Although Anna suffered severe brain injuries and is developmentally delayed, she has made tremendous progress. Her parents have worked tirelessly to ensure that Anna receives the best and most complete care, both at home and with her doctors and therapists.

The Defendants retained over twenty-five of the most highly regarded experts in their respective fields to defend this case. The Defendants' experts testified that all

of Anna's injuries occurred during the period of decreased fetal movement before her mother arrived at the hospital. They also took the position that they clearly met the standard of care. Despite the vigorous defense, William A. Norton achieved a settlement with all Defendants totalling \$2,375,000. ■

***"Aggressive fighting
for the right
is the
noblest sport
the world affords."***

- - President Teddy Roosevelt
