



L to r. Amber, Rebecca and Brandon Carroll

Update:

Hospital Settles After Man's Tragic Death

In Vol. 00, Number 4, *Of Counsel* reported on the case of Ronald Carroll. On May 16, 1998, Mr. Carroll, who was employed as a truck driver, was driving from Indiana to St. Petersburg. He began to experience shortness of breath and stopped at an area drug store. The pharmacist, recognizing the serious of Mr. Carroll's situation, called 911. He was transported to Hospital A in Gainesville where he was treated by the emergency room staff and an emergency room physician, Dr. B. In spite of documented chest pain, an abnormal chest x-ray, and an abnormal EKG, Mr. Carroll was discharged and continued to drive the remaining three hours to St. Petersburg. Mr. Carroll died of heart failure shortly after arriving at his home on May 17, leaving behind his wife Rebecca, daughter Amber, and son Brandon.

Attorneys Chris Searcy and Bill Norton previously settled with the emergency room physician for his policy limits of \$1 million. In that case, the hospital and physician had admitted liability in an attempt to cap damages at \$350,000. Mr. Searcy and Mr. Norton cited the St. Mary's Hospital v. Charles Phillippe case that provides \$350,000 for each claimant, in addition to the economic damages caused by Mr. Carroll's death.

Mr. Searcy and Mr. Norton worked closely with vocational rehabilitation and economic experts. In May of this year, they were able to secure an additional settlement of \$700,000 from Hospital A. The total settlement will provide the Carroll family with a measure of economic security as they cope with the loss of their beloved husband and father. ■