Woman commits suicide just hours after being released from Baker Act hospital admittance

(Continued from page three.)

The psychiatrist and the hospital obtained no records of Kate's prior medical and psychological care, sought no information from any collateral sources, and isolated Kate from any contact with her family while hospitalized. Without initiating any follow-up care and without any treatment plan, she was then released from the hospital into the same emotionally-charged environment that had served as the acute trigger for her suicide attempt the day before. Within hours of that release, Kate would be dead.

With no support system and no treatment in place for stabilizing her acute mental health condition, Kate tragically ended her life just hours after being sent out of the hospital where the physician who had initiated her Baker Act admission had pointed out the substantial likelihood that Kate would cause serious harm to herself without care or treatment. Kate's surviving family member reached out to attorney **Brian Denney** and asked for help. Mr. Denney instituted proceedings to hold the hospital and the physician accountable. The case was settled for a confidential amount. ◆

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

VETERANS CRISIS LINE
Dial 988
Then press 1 or text 838255

CRISIS TEXT LINE
(text HELLO to 741741)

211
HELPLINE AND CRISIS HOTLINE
(PB and Treasure Coast)

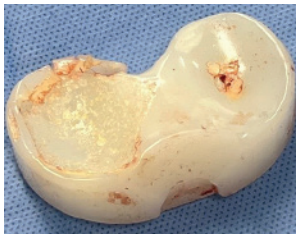
800-273-8255 (talk)
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

Exactech Medical Device Update

A lot has happened since we last wrote about the Exactech litigation. Exactech, a medical device company based in Gainesville, Florida, produces a variety of surgical instruments and software but has specialized in orthopedic implant devices for joint replacement surgery – hip, knee, and ankle. Over the years, it has focused its sales efforts within Florida. As a result, Florida has become "ground zero" for litigation involving the requirement of the company to recall these devices due to oxidation, degradation, and delamination of the polyethylene components in the implants. Implant patients were experiencing a high rate of revision surgery necessary to avoid the danger and pain of joint failure. The company has faced litigation for many years on several different issues. The most recent recall involves its production of GXL hip liners.

Since the beginning of this year, many cases have been filed in the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court, Alachua County, Florida. Recently, Judge Donna Keim ordered all cases to be coordinated before her. She conducted several hearings and scheduled monthly case management conferences. There is currently a GXL hip liner case scheduled for trial in 2023. Despite Exactech's best efforts to get that case continued, Judge Keim refused to move the trial date. As the cases were coordinated, Judge Keim appointed leadership counsel similar to what is often used in federal multi-district litigation proceedings. Searcy Denney partner **Cal Warriner** was appointed co-lead counsel. A protective order has been entered, and Exactech is now producing documents which are currently being reviewed.

The more our attorneys study Exactech's recalled devices, the more we are convinced the products are defective... leading to oxidation and degradation of the plastic in the body, known as "poly wear disease".



In September 2022, we appeared before the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation (JPML) in St. Louis, Missouri. Plaintiffs argued for coordination in the Eastern District of New York. Exactech agreed to coordination but wanted the cases coordinated in either Louisiana or South Carolina. This drew laughter from the panel since Exactech is based in Florida and took the position that a venue in Florida was inconvenient. Following the hearing, the JPML ordered coordination before Judge Nicholas Garaufis in the Eastern District of New York. Judge Garaufis scheduled the first case management hearing for November 16, 2022, and has indicated interest in quickly appointing leadership.

The more our attorneys study Exactech's recalled devices, the more we are convinced the products are defective. The design and manufacturing of the polyethylene (plastic) spacers in both the hip and knee implants is bad. Poor design and packaging lead to oxidation and degradation of the plastic in the body. Known as "poly wear disease," plastic particulates cause bone and soft tissue to die. Patients frequently experience swelling and pain in the affected joint. The only option is to remove and replace the device.

Our referral partners have been sending us a steady stream of cases. We now have hundreds of Exactech clients. We are committed to doing our part to make the litigation successful. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this litigation. ◆