

Labor And Delivery: Nurses Did Not Report Abnormal Monitor Tracings To The Physician.

The patient, an insulin-dependent diabetic, went to see her ob/gyn at thirty-six weeks because she had not felt any fetal movement for two days. She was admitted to the hospital two days later.

When the patient's ob/gyn came into the patient's room the nurse held up the monitor strip as if to signal to him there was a problem which required his immediate attention.

The nurse testified later she did not want to say anything in front of the mother that might alarm her and did not want to leave her patient to go out in the hallway to talk to the physician.

The physician did not understand what was going on, left the room and went to see his other patients.

COURT OF APPEAL OF LOUISIANA
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For more than an hour a number of different nurses caring for the mother saw problems with the monitor tracings, but the physician was never notified what was going on.

The start of the cesarean was delayed several hours and the infant was delivered with brain damage and cerebral palsy.

The Court of Appeal of Louisiana approved a jury verdict in favor of the infant and family, apportioned 80% against the hospital for nursing negligence and 20% against the patient's obstetrician for medical malpractice. Johnson v. Morehouse Gen. Hosp., __ So. 3d __, 2009 WL 4912390 (La. App., December 22, 2009).