

Cardiac Monitor: Alarm Turned Off For Patient To Use The Bed Pan, Not Turned Back On.

The thirty-nine year-old patient came to the emergency room with a rapid heart beat. She had previously been diagnosed with a rare cardiac abnormality. The emergency room physician ordered several cardiac medications and had her admitted to the cardiac telemetry unit.

At 3:30 a.m. the patient's nurse turned off the heart monitor alarm while the patient used the bed pan.

Later that morning the patient was found unresponsive and not breathing, with the monitor still turned off.

During the code she was found to be in V-fib. She was intubated and started on a respirator, but not before massive brain damage had occurred.

The hospital paid a confidential settlement of the lawsuit filed in the Circuit Court, Pinellas County, Florida.

Allegations of negligence were two-fold.

The nurse turned off the monitor alarm for what was only to be a brief moment of time while the nurse would be with the patient, but the nurse neglected to turn the alarm back on when she left.

Whoever was supposed to be watching the monitor never noticed that anything was wrong until it was too late. **Craig v. Sina, 2007 WL 4643854 (Cir. Ct. Pinellas Co., Florida, April 12, 2007).**