

Emergency Room: Cardiac Patient's Care Delayed.

The patient came to the emergency room complaining of chest pain, shortness of breath and abdominal pain. He stated he had recently vomited.

He was reportedly kept waiting almost two hours without a physician seeing him or a nurse monitoring his vital signs.

When he finally got a triage assessment his BP and O₂ sat were low. Instead of being seen by a physician he was taken to the hospital business office to sign paperwork. Then he was returned to the waiting room for another half-hour wait.

A physician finally did see him, drew blood for cardiac enzymes, called the cardiologist and sent him to the catheterization lab, where he went into full cardiac arrest and died during a coronary angiogram.

The widow agreed to settle the case, filed in the District Court, Harris County, Texas, for \$30,000. **Gillie v. Memorial Hermann Hosp.**, 2008 WL 5582213 (Dist. Ct. Harris Co., Texas, October 16, 2008).