

Unknown Patient's Remains: Court Says Hospital Is Not Liable For Family's Emotional Distress.

The thirty-two year-old patient was brought in by ambulance after an apparent asthma attack. The patient's mother, also living at the motel, did not go along to the hospital but stayed behind to care for the patient's child.

The patient died at the hospital. After it took more than a month to learn from the hospital what happened to her daughter, the mother sued for mental anguish and emotional distress.

The Superior Court of New Jersey ruled the hospital was not to blame. The hospital had turned the unidentified patient's remains over to the coroner within twenty-four hours as required by law and at that point the case was solely the coroner's jurisdiction and responsibility. **Taylor v. Jersey City Medical Center, 2005 WL 3501877 (N.J. Super., December 22, 2005).**