



Suit filed against doctor, hospital

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Two separate lawsuits have been filed against a former local urologist and J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital citing medical professional liability.

Filed on behalf of two county residents in the Huntingdon County Court of Common Pleas Wednesday afternoon, the complaints name the defendants as Dr. Valley Spencer Long, J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital, J.C. Blair Medical Services Inc., J.C. Blair Health Systems Inc. and J.C. Blair Health Care Inc.

The first complaint names Steven Hanes of Mount Union as the plaintiff and the second names Helen Kidd of Huntingdon, wife of the late Kevin Kidd, as plaintiff individually and on behalf of her husband's estate.

Both complaints assert negligence and corporate (direct) negligence on the part of Long, and a wrongful death claim has also been made on behalf of Mr. Kidd. A jury trial is demanded for each.

According to the Hanes' filing, Long performed a orchiectomy on the plaintiff in June 2013, when he was being treated for chronic pain in his right testicle.

Hanes first went to see Long, complaining of ongoing pain in his right testicle in May 2013, and an ultrasound ordered by Long revealed it had atrophied.

After discussing options for treatment with Hanes, surgery was scheduled for June 11, 2013, to remedy the persistent pain.

Court documents reveal that in Long's post-operative report, "he did not know whether he was removing the left or right testicle" during surgery.

The pathologist report from Dr. Gordon Handte revealed Long, in fact, performed the orchiectomy on the healthy left testicle.

Hanes followed up with Long at a post-operative visit June 12, 2013, where he told him he “believed” he removed the wrong testicle.

The Kidd filing also asserts a professional negligence claim against the defendants.

The complaint states Mr. Kidd began treatment for bilateral kidney stones and a large stone in the left ureter Oct. 21, 2013. A CT scan Oct. 23, 2013, revealed a large stone in the left kidney causing moderate obstruction with no visible obstruction in any part of the right kidney. Mr. Kidd was examined by Long Oct. 22 and Oct. 23, 2013, and scheduled for a right-sided extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) Oct. 29, 2013, a non-surgical intervention to break up the stones. Following the procedure, Mr. Kidd complained of worsening left-side pain at his regularly planned Nov. 1, 2013, office visit. Long then scheduled a left-sided ESWL treatment for Nov. 19, 2013.

Mr. Kidd visited the emergency department at J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital, Huntingdon, Nov. 9, 2013, with a low grade fever, chills, cough and painful and cloudy urination. Long diagnosed him with a urinary tract infection and sepsis due to the obstructive left-side kidney stone. Mr. Kidd was taken to surgery in order to have a stent placed to correct the obstruction and resulting infection.

Mr. Kidd was flown to Penn State Hershey Medical Center in the early hours of Nov. 10, 2013, due to multiple complications arising during the several-hour-long surgery performed by Long, where he died Nov. 11, 2013.

Attorney Thomas Kline of Kline and Specter Law Firm in Philadelphia, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of both the Hanes and Kidd families, said this is a significant lawsuit.

“Within the course of five months, in one hospital, there was an individual who had an operation which the wrong body part was removed from his body,” said Kline. “The other individual had his bladder punctured which led to his death. We have filed a lawsuit separately on behalf of Kevin Kidd and on behalf of Steven Hanes seeking damages. We will also be seeking to determine in all aspects of what went terribly wrong under the hands of one surgeon. This is a very serious matter and a matter of concern in which a hospital in the community had two serious incidents occur in a short period of time.”

As of late Wednesday afternoon, J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital officials had not been officially informed of the suits and offered no further comment.

Long was employed with the hospital from 2007 until 2013.