

Philly Hospital Must Pay Patient's Family \$6.8M, Jury Finds

By **P.J. D'Annunzio**

Law360 (November 25, 2024, 6:39 PM EST) -- Thomas Jefferson University Hospital must pay \$6.8 million to the family of a woman who died from complications resulting from a procedure targeting a tumor, with a Philadelphia jury finding the hospital was negligent in its treatment.

The verdict was handed up in Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Angelo Foglietta's courtroom Friday, according to the Monday announcement by the firm representing the estate of Thelma Stanton. She was being treated at Jefferson for liver cancer and cirrhosis in 2020, according to the complaint, when her doctor performed a procedure to burn a tumor located on her liver.

However, the equipment used to target the tumor was improperly placed and ended up perforating Stanton's liver and burning her stomach instead. The **complaint** alleges that she was discharged after that without further examination.

Stanton returned to the hospital two days later complaining of shortness of breath and chest pain, but she was told she had heartburn and was sent away, the complaint said. She came back to the hospital twice more, complaining of pain, until she was eventually diagnosed with sepsis on March 11, 2020.

She underwent treatment in the hospital, remaining there for weeks until her death on April 13, 2020.

"Thelma Stanton had been timely, properly and appropriately evaluated, diagnosed and treated by the defendants, effective treatment would have been implemented, and her catastrophic injuries, as well as her conscious pain, suffering and death would have been prevented," the complaint said.

The lawsuit alleged four counts including negligence against the doctor performing the tumor burn, negligence against the hospital, wrongful death and survival action.

"It was extremely important to Ms. Stanton's children to get justice for the horrible death their mother experienced," said Barry Magen of Kline & Specter PC, who represents the estate. "Even though the defendants knew the injury occurred during the procedure, they failed to disclose what had happened or offer timely treatment. This substantial verdict is a reflection of the jury's appreciation of the catastrophic yet preventable injuries suffered at the hands of the defendants."

Jefferson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Stanton's family is represented by Barry G. Magen and Shanin Specter of Kline & Specter PC.

The defendants are represented by Sharon M. Rupprecht, Marshall L. Schwartz and Skyler R. Morgan of O'Brien & Ryan LLP.

The case is Haslett v. Anton, case number 220400891 in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas.

--Editing by Andrew Cohen.