

The Indiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Indiana Jury Verdicts

October 2023

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

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Unbiased and Independently Researched Jury Verdict Results

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Civil Jury Verdicts

Timely coverage of civil jury verdicts in Indiana including court, division, presiding judge, parties, cause number, attorneys and results.

Medical Negligence - A woman recovering from gastric bypass surgery developed a small bowel obstruction that required a surgical repair; during the induction of anesthesia for this second surgery, the woman aspirated gastric material, which led to her death some three weeks later; the woman's estate blamed the aspiration event and her subsequent death on her anesthesiologist

Estate of Hogue v. Renschler, et al.,
49D01-1805-CT-16917

Plaintiff: Lance D. Cline and Lindsey Popejoy, *The Cline Law Firm, LLC.,*
Carmel

Defense: Michael E. O'Neill and Daniel F. Ford, *O'Neill McFadden & Willett, LLP.,* Schererville

Verdict: Defense verdict on liability

County: **Marion**, Superior

Court: J. Welch (Special Judge),
4-20-23

In the early months of 2011, Aubrey Hogue, then age 32, was living in Kosciusko County with her husband, Steven Hogue, and their two children. Hogue was employed as a secretary for a family business called Hogue Engines, located in the Town of Akron.

Standing only 5' 1" tall and weighing in at 241 pounds, Hogue was morbidly obese. This, combined with the fact that she had a husband and two children to care for, led Hogue to take decisive action to improve her health. A major component of her plan was bariatric surgery for weight loss.

On 3-10-11, Hogue was admitted to IU Health North Hospital to undergo a Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery to be performed by Dr. Daniel McKenna, an employee of University Surgeons, Inc. The surgery took approximately three and a half hours and appeared to have been uneventful.

Hogue's post-operative recovery seemed to go well for the first day. On the second day she developed signs of a small bowel obstruction. The symptoms included nausea and vomiting, and they worsened over the next day.

Dr. McKenna took Hogue back to the operating room for a surgical repair of the injury on 3-14-11. The anesthesia for that procedure would be provided by Dr. Jason Renschler, an employee of Anesthesia Consultants of Indianapolis. The procedure soon took a tragic turn.

During the induction of anesthesia, Hogue aspirated gastric material. This, in turn, led to the destruction of lung tissue. She lingered for over three weeks but ultimately died on 4-8-11. Her estate linked her death to the aspiration event.

Hogue's estate, administered by her husband, presented the case to a medical review panel. The panel members were Dr. Eric Knapp, Surgery, Elkhart; Dr. Debra Ladd, Anesthesiology, Seymour; and Dr. Andrew Dick, Anesthesiology, Seymour.

The estate criticized Dr. McKenna