

# The Indiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Indiana Jury Verdicts

June 2026

Statewide Jury Verdict Coverage

27 IJVR 6

*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 Malpractice - An autistic 27 year-old man presented to the ER and was diagnosed with sepsis; when the man died two days later his estate blamed his death on alleged mismanagement of his condition by his doctors and the hospital; the jury exonerated the last standing doctor (one prevailed by directed verdict) but found against the hospital**

*Estate of Sanders v. St. Francis Hospital, et al.*, 49D12-1510-CT-35700  
Plaintiff: Robert W. Johnson and Michael D. Devor, *Johnson Jensen, LLP.*, Indianapolis; and Joseph N. Williams, *Williams Law Group, LLC.*, Indianapolis

Defense: Michael Roth and Carson Cox, *Eichhorn & Eichhorn, LLP.*, Indianapolis, for St. Francis Hospital  
Courtney David Mills and Megan S. Young, *Riley Bennett Egloff, LLP.*, Indianapolis, for Ramsey and Indiana Internal Medicine Consultants

Verdict: \$490,900 for plaintiff against St. Francis Hospital; Defense verdict for Ramsey and Indiana Internal Medicine Consultants  
County: **Marion**, Superior  
Judge: Patrick J. Dietrick, 2-13-26

On 11-5-13, Jonathan Sanders, then age 27, presented to the ER at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis. Sanders was autistic, of short stature and had a history of co-morbidities that made it difficult for his body to handle stresses. Sanders was diagnosed with sepsis and was later admitted to the ICU by Dr. Gema Naum. One of the other doctors

involved in Sanders's care was hospitalist Dr. Megan Ramsey.

It would later be alleged that Dr. Ramsey failed to communicate the severity of Sanders's condition to the day shift the following morning on 11-6-13. She also allegedly failed to order the placement of an arterial line, invasive blood pressure monitoring, or several other measures. It was also alleged that she issued ambiguous orders for norepinephrine.

Additionally, Dr. Ahmad Alawneh, internal medicine, also became involved in Sanders's care that morning. There would later be allegations that Dr. Alawneh also failed to communicate his assessment and orders to the hospital staff.

Sanders's condition continued to deteriorate, and he died on the following morning of 11-7-13. His estate, administered by his mother Mary Sanders, presented the matter to a medical review panel. The estate was critical of the treatment Sanders had received from St. Francis Hospital and from Drs. Naum, Ramsey, and Alawneh.

The Medical Review Panel was comprised of Dr. Kenneth Gammon, Pulmonology, Elkhart; Dr. Kimberly Tyus, Internal Medicine, Lafayette; and Dr. Eric Waldo, Internal Medicine, Warsaw. The panel issued the unanimous opinion that there had been no breach of the standard of care by Dr. Naum or St. Francis Hospital but there had been a standard of care breach by Drs. Ramsey and Alawneh.

The estate filed suit against

response was thus reasonable under the circumstances. Furthermore, Officer Parker claimed immunity under the Indiana Tort Claims Act.

The case was tried over four days in Crown Point. The jury returned a verdict for Johnson and awarded her damages of \$500,000. The court entered a judgment for that amount. Officer Parker has filed a Notice of Appeal of the judgment. At the time the IJVR reviewed the record, the appeal was still pending.

**Case Documents:**

[Pretrial Order](#)

[Final Judgment](#) (Includes jury verdict)

## Historical Verdict

### **Race Track Negligence - A security guard at the 1971 Indianapolis 500 suffered two broken legs when the pace car lost control and crashed into a stand of photographers – the security guard sued and took a verdict against local car dealers who had provided the pace car, a 1971 Dodge Challenger**

*Barnhart v. US Auto Club et al*

Plaintiff: James Young, Franklin, Robert Weddle, Indianapolis, and Henry Bradshaw, Indianapolis  
 Defense: Emerson Boyd, Indianapolis, Geoffrey Segar, Indianapolis, Richard Yarling, Indianapolis, and James Acher, Franklin

Verdict: \$62,5000 for plaintiff

County: **Johnson**

Judge Robert Young

Date: February 16, 1974

It was Indiana's biggest day of the year on May 29, 1971. The 55<sup>th</sup>

running of the Indianapolis 500 would be conducted at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The weather was beautiful that Saturday. The Big Three auto makers had declined to provide a pace car for the race. A group of local car dealers led by Eldon Palmer of Palmer Dodge stepped up to provide a car.

The dealers selected a bright red/orange Dodge 1971 Challenger. It was a fantastic looking convertible. Palmer himself would pilot the vehicle during the pace lap. He'd practiced the route the day before. Palmer set up an orange cone near the pit area so he would know when to slow down as he completed the lap. Famed astronaut John Glenn was a passenger as was the track owner, Tony Hulman.

On the day of the big race, Palmer drove the Challenger. As he approached the pit area where he planned to stop, Palmer noticed the cone wasn't present. He also realized he was going too fast at 125 mph or



*The 1971 Dodge Challenger Indianapolis 500 Pace Car*

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