

The Indiana Jury Verdict Reporter

The Most Current and Complete Summary of Indiana Jury Verdicts

December 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 young pregnant woman entered the hospital for the induction of labor; a baby boy was delivered via C-section, but complications resulted in the death of the mother and permanent neurological injuries to the baby

Estate of Tyler, et al. v. IU Health Methodist Hospital,

49D01-1604-CT-14754

Plaintiff: David W. Stewart and Rhonda L. Wood, *Stewart Wood, LLC.*, Indianapolis

Defense: Elizabeth H. Knotts and Brandais H. Hagerty, *Hill Knotts & Goldman, LLC.*, Indianapolis

Verdict: Defense verdict on liability County: **Marion**, Superior

Court: J. Welch, 3-16-23

On 7-11-14, Tana Tyler, age 26 was a patient at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis for the induction of labor and delivery of her baby. Despite indications that Tyler was at risk of preeclampsia, she was assigned to midwife care rather than physician care.

The midwives caring for Tyler administered doses of Cytotec to induce labor. During the induction process they allowed Tyler to eat pizza. It would later be alleged that this was a serious error in that patients must not eat solid foods, especially fatty foods, during induction.

Sometime after this, Tyler went to the bathroom and nearly fainted. It was also noted that the fetal heart rate was down. At this point Tyler was transferred to physician care,

and a doctor was summoned. The doctor was reportedly angry with the midwives for allowing Tyler to eat during induction. He ordered a stat C-section.

The procedure resulted in the delivery of a baby boy, Chace Tyler at 11:14 pm. Upon delivery, Chace was very depressed with Apgars of 2 and 3. He was taken to the NICU where his medical team had difficulty intubating him. This led to seizures and permanent neurological impairment.

Meanwhile, Tyler was taken to a recovery room where she soon coded. Although Tyler was successfully resuscitated, those efforts took over an hour. She was thereafter taken back to surgery but became hypoxic due to difficulties with intubating her.

When the surgical team opened Tyler's abdomen, blood poured out. It was the opinion of the doctors that the copious bleeding was due to a liver laceration. The doctors packed the liver to control the bleeding but left the abdomen open.

Tyler was then transferred to the ICU. While she was there, blood continued to pour from her abdomen. Tragically, Tyler did not survive the ordeal, she died at 7:15 am on the morning of 7-12-14. For his part, Chace is permanently disabled and will never live a normal life.

Tyler's mother, LaDonna Mills, took guardianship of Chace and also assumed the role of administrator of

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Indiana Jury Verdict Reporter*

Case Style _____

Jurisdiction _____ Case Number _____

Trial Judge _____ Date Verdict _____

Verdict _____

For plaintiff _____ (Name, City, Firm)

For defense _____ (Name, City, Firm)

Fact Summary _____

Injury/Damages _____

Submitted by: _____

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The evasive maneuvers were unsuccessful, and the right driver's side of Ferreira's car hit the front passenger side of Eriks's dump truck. As Eriks would later describe it, the two vehicles "ricocheted" off each other. The impact sent Ferreira's car off the road and into a ditch.

Ferreira claimed to have suffered widely-ranging soft-tissue injuries

that she attributed to the crash. They included injuries to her head, neck, and right shoulder. She also claimed to suffer ongoing headaches and vision problems. The record does not reveal the amount of her medical expenses.

Ferreira filed suit against Eriks and blamed him for failing to yield the right-of-way, pulling into her path, and thereby causing the crash. Erik

defended the case and disputed the nature, extent, and causation of Ferreira's claimed injuries.

Eriks also implicated Ferreira's fault for the crash. He argued that he had not seen Ferreira until literally seconds before the impact. By contrast, Ferreira admits that she saw the large, red dump truck that Eriks was driving, but she did not slow down or change lanes because she