



STORAGE NAME: h0609.CRJS
DATE: 4/11/2011

Florida House of Representatives Summary Claim Bill Report

Bill #: HB 609; Relief/Harris & Williams/North Broward Hospital District
Sponsor: Coley
Companion Bill: SB 16 by Ring
Special Master: Thomas

Basic Information:

Claimants:	Laron S. Harris, Jr., by and through his parents, Melinda Williams and Laron S. Harris, Sr., and Melinda Williams and Laron S. Harris, Sr., individually
Respondent:	North Broward Hospital District, d/b/a Coral Springs Medical Center
Amount Requested:	\$2,000,000
Type of Claim:	Local equitable claim; result of a settlement agreement.
Respondent's Position:	The Hospital District agrees to fully support the claim bill in the total amount of \$2,000,000 and agrees to take no action nor present any evidence at any stage of the claim bill process that could result in the rejection or diminution of the claim.
Collateral Sources:	\$4,250,000 in settlements from other medical participants.
Attorney's/Lobbying Fees:	The claimant's attorney provided an affidavit stating that the attorney's fees will be capped at 25% of the total claim award in accordance with s. 768.28(8), F.S., and that the lobbyist's fees, if any, will be included in the 25% fee cap.
Prior Legislative History:	This is the first year a claim bill has been filed in this matter.

Procedural Summary: Laron S. Harris, Jr., and his parents Melinda Williams and Laron S. Harris, Sr., filed a lawsuit against the North Broward Hospital District, d/b/a Coral Springs Medical Center, in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Broward County. Prior to trial, the parties resolved the matter through a mediated consent judgment for the sum of \$2.2 million, \$200,000 of which has already been paid pursuant to the state's limited waiver of sovereign immunity under s. 768.28, Florida Statutes.

SPECIAL MASTER'S SUMMARY REPORT--

Page 2

Facts of Case: Laron S. Harris, Jr., was born at the Coral Springs Medical Center on April 1, 2003, suffering from severe perinatal asphyxia and severe hypoperfusion. As a result, Laron, has significant brain damage and will be dependent upon others for the remainder of his life. Laron's mother, Melinda Williams, approximately 8 months pregnant, arrived by ambulance at the medical center at or around 5:45 a.m. on April 1, 2003, and was bleeding significantly and having abdominal pain. At 7:55 a.m., Dr. Richard Spira performed an ultrasound and strongly suspected that a placental abruption had occurred and recommended that another sonogram be performed in the ultrasound department of the medical center.

At 8:45 a.m., a registered nurse performed a bedside ultrasound on Ms. Williams using a portable ultrasound machine rather than the more reliable ultrasound equipment recommended by Dr. Spira in the ultrasound department. Ms. Williams was not taken to the ultrasound department for the further examinations as requested by Dr. Spira until after 9:20 a.m. Ms. Williams finally was sent to the operating room at 9:45 a.m. for an emergency cesarean section that was performed by Dr. Desouza; however, the surgery, which showed that the placenta was 40 to 50 percent abrupt, did not begin until 10:14 a.m.

The District was insured at the time of the incident and will pay for the claim, if awarded.

Tom Thomas, Special Master

Date: April 11, 2011

cc: Representative Coley, House Sponsor
Senator Ring, Senate Sponsor
Judge John G. Van Laningham, Senate Special Master