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Family receives \$14 million in childbirth suit

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The family of a mother who died during childbirth when the baby was born with brain damage has received a \$14 million settlement, the family's lawyer said.

Sabrina Lawson, 32, went to Advocate Trinity Hospital in Chicago in 2007 when she had contractions. Hospital staff induced her with medication, but the fetus showed signs of distress.

The family's lawsuit alleged that a doctor was paged to perform a cesarean section, but the procedure didn't happen until almost seven hours later.

Lawson died from an amniotic fluid embolism, a heart problem. The baby

was born with permanent brain damage due to a lack of oxygen and blood flow to the brain.

"What should have been a joyous occasion for this family became a nightmare due to delay and neglect," said the family's attorney, Mark E. McNabola of Cogan & McNabola P.C.

"To their credit, the attorneys and claims manager at [the hospital] acknowledge the severity of this situation and dealt in good faith with us. As a result, this severely injured child and her family will not have to worry about future medical and life-care needs," McNabola said.

The settlement was negotiated in a mediation handled by former

Cook County Chief Judge Donald P. O'Connell.

Circuit Judge Henry R. Simmons Jr. approved the payment last week.

Lawson was not married and had nine children. McNabola said the bulk of the settlement is to pay for the child's needs.

The hospital and its owner, Advocate Health and Hospitals Corp., was represented by Patricia J. Barker and Jennifer M. Suttle of Barker & Castro LLC. Barker and Suttle could not be reached for comment.

The case is *Sidonia Lawson, etc. v. Advocate Health and Hospitals Corp., et al.*, No. 09 L 12090.

Cogan & McNabola still has a claim pending against a doctor in the case.