

FJVR INFORMATION SHEET

P. O. Box 3730, Tallahassee, FL 32316-3730  
(904) 224-6649 (800) 446-2998 \*(904) 222-6266

COUNTY and CASE: Pasco County Circuit Court

NAME OF CASE: Frank Edwards, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Teasha Renee Edwards, Deceased v. V. J. Ferris, M.D., Paul Citrin, M.D., Florida Medical Clinic, P.A., and Adventist Health System/Sunbelt, Inc., d/b/a East Pasco Medical Center

DOCKET NO.: 51-2007-CA-5957 ES JUDGE: Honorable Wayne L. Cobb

PLAINTIFF(S) ATTORNEY(S)/TRIAL COUNSEL:

Mark V. Morsch, Esquire  
Alan P. Mirelman, Esquire  
Winter Park, FL 32789

DEFENDANT(S) ATTORNEY(S)/TRIAL COUNSEL:

Richard B. Mangan, Jr., Esquire  
R. Clifton Acord II, Esquire  
Eric F. Ochotorena, Esquire  
Rissman, Barrett, Hurt, Donahue & McLain, P.A.  
Tampa, FL 33609

AGE/SEX/OCCUPATION OF PLAINTIFF:

31 year old married mother of two who was employed as a teacher.

For WRONGFUL DEATH cases, please give age and relationship of survivors:

Frank Edwards - decedent's husband  
Taylor Edwards - child - age 2 (at time of death)  
Colby Edwards - child - age 2 (at time of death)

DATE, TIME, and PLACE OF ACCIDENT or OCCURRENCE:

March 20, 2005

CAUSE OF INJURY:

On March 20, 2005, decedent, Teasha Edwards, was involved in an ATV accident. She was riding on an ATV when she became dizzy and passed out. After the accident, she was transported via ambulance to the emergency room at East Pasco Medical Center. She was evaluated by the emergency room physician, Dr. Carter, at approximately 7:15 p.m. Dr. Carter received a history of a motor vehicle accident just prior to arrival. Ms. Edwards had complaints

of some abdominal pain. Dr. Carter ordered a CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis.

The CT scan was interpreted via teleradiology by Nite Rad. The report was faxed to the emergency department at around 9:11 p.m. This initial report indicated that there was pelvic and abdominal ascites.

Dr. Carter ultimately requested a surgical consult. He had the unit secretary page Dr. Ferris, the on-call surgeon. Dr. Ferris returned the page shortly before 9:30 p.m.

Dr. Ferris spoke directly with Dr. Carter, and learned that Ms. Edwards was in the emergency department after an ATV accident. During the conversation Dr. Ferris became aware that Ms. Edwards was a patient of Dr. Cevallos, a pulmonologist with the Florida Medical Clinic. Dr. Ferris suggested that Dr. Carter call the Florida Medical Clinic surgeon and to call him back if necessary. Dr. Carter agreed that this seemed to be a reasonable suggestion.

Dr. Carter then contacted Florida Medical Clinic and Dr. Citrin responded. Based upon the information learned by Dr. Citrin, he in his judgment, decided Ms. Edwards needed to be transferred to a Level A trauma center for surgery. Dr. Citrin was actively involved in the transfer process and ultimately Ms. Edwards was transferred to Tampa General Hospital where she expired prior to surgery. On autopsy she was found to have a lacerated mesentery.

**NATURE OF INJURY:**

Death.

**PLAINTIFF'S EXPERT WITNESSES:**

Brian Aach, M.D. - general and trauma surgeon - Belleville, Illinois

**DEFENDANT'S EXPERT WITNESSES:**

Earnest Block, M.D. - trauma surgeon - Orlando Regional Medical Center

Stephen Butler, M.D. - general and vascular surgeon - Plant City, Florida

James Good, M.D. - pulmonologist/critical care specialist - National Jewish Medical Center and Research Center in Denver, Colorado

Peter Hill, M.D. - emergency room physician - Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, Maryland

**CHECK APPROPRIATE SPACE:**      X      Summary judgment for Defendant,  
V.J. Ferris, M.D. on May 21, 2008.

**DATE OF VERDICT:**

N/A

**VERDICT:**

N/A

**COMPARATIVE NEGLIGENCE:**

N/A

**JUDGMENT:**

Final summary judgment.

**DATE OF JUDGEMENT:**

June 16, 2008.

**DEFENDANT'S OFFER:**

\$0

**PLAINTIFF'S DEMAND:**

\$250,000

**ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:**

The trial court found that Dr. Ferris did not have a physician patient relationship with the decedent and, consequently, Dr. Ferris did not owe her a legal duty of care.

**Submitted By:** Richard B. Mangan, Jr., Esquire, R. Clifton Acord II, Esquire and Eric F. Ochotorena, Esquire

**Date:** 6/26/08

**Firm:** Rissman, Barrett, Hurt, Donahue & McLain, P.A.

**Address:** 1 North Dale Mabry, 11th Floor, Tampa, FL 33609

**Telephone No.:** (813) 221-3114    **FAX No.:** (813) 221-3033