



Lawsuit in dead-baby hosp horror

A woman whose premature daughter died minutes after birth and was later found mixed in with hospital laundry has filed a negligence lawsuit against the hospital, her attorney said yesterday.

Verna Uptigrow, 35, of Queens Village, says she suffers from nightmares and depression following the death of Isabella Rosa Pickney. The baby weighed less than a pound and survived only 30 to 45 minutes after she was born Feb. 19, said Uptigrow's attorney, Dan Flanzig.

"I did get to hold her, I got to feel her breath on my lips," Uptigrow said. "I told her I loved her, I told her happy birthday, and then they took her."

Isabella's body was found on Feb. 21 at Oceanside Linen Services. Police believe a worker at South Nassau Communities Hospital didn't see Isabella's body beneath a pile of soiled linen in a refrigerated locker.

The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified monetary damages, claims the hospital and its "employees were willful and wanton, as well as reckless, careless and negligent."

AP