

The Saginaw News

Jury orders physician to pay \$1.8 million

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A Saginaw County jury awarded an Iosco County family \$1.8 million in a wrongful death medical malpractice case of a 39-year-old woman.

The Circuit Court jury granted the award to the family of Brenda Miller, who died after the second of two abdominal surgeries that Dr. Donato Cabrera performed at St. Mary's of Michigan hospital in September 2002.

Detroit attorney Terrance J. Cirocco called Miller's death "tragic and unnecessary."

Officials say the verdict is one of the largest in Saginaw County history. County leaders say they don't keep track of the amount of verdicts.

Miller lived in Oscoda with her husband, Eric, two sons and a daughter. She was in the hospital for obstruction of her digestive tract.

Saginaw Township attorney Stephan M. Gaus, who represented Cabrera, argued that Miller's cause of death was cardiac and unrelated to the events of the hospitalization.

The jury found the assertions unsubstantiated, Cirocco said.

Cirocco and his co-counsel, Richard Dimanin, argued that Cabrera was negligent when caring for Miller and that she died following the second surgery.

St. Mary's settled for an undisclosed amount of damages with Miller's family before the family went to trial with the doctor, court officials said.