

COSHOCTON TRIBUNE

6-7-97

35¢

Home Delivery \$2.65 Weekly

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Volume 89, Number 157
Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Lawsuit settled

Local doctor ordered to pay senior citizen \$200,000

From staff reports

COSHOCTON — According to her care-givers, Hazel Burkey, 81, of West Lafayette, cannot care for herself. She cannot eat, sit or turn over in bed without assistance.

At the age of 78, in 1994, she suffered a massive stroke, which left her in her current state.

According to a recent Coshocton County Common Pleas Court jury, Burkey's stroke was a direct result of negligence on the part of a Coshocton doctor.

Burkey's family asserted that when she went to Coshocton County Memorial Hospital on Sept. 7, 1994, for treatment of a broken arm, she was taken off a blood-thinning medication.

She was never put back on the medication, and suffered the stroke.

In the original suit, filed on her behalf by her guardian, several doctors, as well as the hospital, were all named as defendants.

However, the jury found that Dr. Jerold Meyer, a practicing doctor with Family Physicians of Coshocton, was responsible for Burkey's stroke.

"The jury found that Dr. Meyer's negligence had proximately caused injury to Hazel Burkey," the court's judgment entry read. "The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff and against Dr. Meyer for \$200,000."

Later in the entry, it was noted that Coshocton County Memorial Hospital was dismissed from the suit. Hospital administrator Greg Nowak said he would prefer not to comment on the suit Friday.

Calls to Meyer's office Friday were not returned by press time.