

## Woman wins \$850,000 award in lawsuit over husband's death

Repository staff report

CANTON — The widow of a Perry Township man who died three days after his release from a hospital won \$850,000 in damages Thursday.

Christopher Diotale was admitted to Massillon Community Hospital's emergency room June 29, 1998, for chest pain.

Diotala was released July 1, only to suffer a heart attack and die three days later.

Sheila Diotala sued the osteopathic physician who treated

her husband for malpractice, saying the death was preventable.

Her suit, which was filed in January 1997, claimed Dr. Wayne Gross and his employer, Stark Medical Specialties, failed to meet the standard of care by allowing Diotala to return to work with no restrictions and scheduling a return checkup in two weeks.

A Stark County Common Pleas jury deliberated for about four hours before agreeing to \$850,000 in damages.

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