



News From Freedland Harwin, PL

Mother of Two Dies Following Visit to South Florida Cosmetic Surgery Center

With investigation underway and lawsuit pending, the death once again shines light on Florida's lax regulations and oversight to protect patients

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — (May 2, 2012) --- A young woman's trip from New York to South Florida to become more beautiful, turned deadly instead. Now, two children are left without a mother, another South Florida cosmetic surgery center is under the spotlight, and more questions are being asked about whether the State of Florida is doing enough to keep patients safe.

Thirty-nine year old Adriana DeSilva, a native of Brazil who was living in Westchester, NY and working as caregiver to Alzheimer's patients, went into a coma and died just days after getting what should have been simple cosmetic surgery procedures at the Boca Raton Surgery Center in Boca Raton. She flew down to South Florida on a suggestion from a friend. On April 5th, she went to the facility for a breast augmentation and lift, tummy tuck, and liposuction of the neck, that were scheduled to be performed by Dr. Daniel M. Zeichner. All of the procedures were done under one dose of general anesthesia which was administered by a nurse anesthetist.

"Something clearly wasn't right with her condition after the surgery," said attorney Daniel Harwin, a partner at Freedland Harwin, PL who was retained by the surviving children to investigate the death. "She displayed abnormal signs, but the doctors cleared her to leave."

Harwin said DeSilva developed obvious symptoms of an impending problem which she described in detail to the doctor during post-procedure checkups over the telephone. But the family was told that there was nothing seriously wrong with her. She ultimately suffered a stroke and slipped into a coma. She was taken to Bethesda West Hospital in Boynton Beach on April 7. She was eventually declared brain dead and taken off life support April 24 after the family made the decision to donate her organs.

Co-counsel Andrew Kessler of the South Florida-based law firm Schiller, Kessler & Gomez said a healthy, 39-year old woman is not supposed to die after cosmetic surgery.

“I have great concerns about that fact that Adriana DeSilva underwent so many procedures at once, and did so at an out-patient surgery center rather than a hospital and was released to go home after the surgeries were completed.”

A wrongful death lawsuit may result based on the outcome of the investigation and results of an autopsy.

DeSilva’s legal team said these kinds of tragedies are happening way too frequently in Florida. The impact on the families involved is also tragic. With DeSilva’s death, both of her children will be moving back to Brazil to be raised by other family members.

“Florida has become the wild, wild west for cosmetic and plastic surgery,” said attorney Michael Freedland, who has represented other survivors of women who lost their lives following routine cosmetic procedures. “Women are coming to South Florida with the goal of looking more beautiful, but they are doing so at great risk. Until lawmakers and regulators crack down on this industry to make it safer, who knows how many other people will die and how many other children will be left without a mother.”

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About Freedland Harwin, PL (WestonLawyers.com): Freedland Harwin, PL is a respected and established law firm that has offices in Weston and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It is a nationally recognized trial law firm that has built a reputation around protecting the rights of victimized consumers in some of the nation’s most significant individual and class action lawsuits. The firm focuses on medical malpractice claims, and those involving catastrophic injuries and pharmaceutical defects. Freedland Harwin’s Fort Lauderdale office is located at 110 Tower, 110 SE 6th Street, Suite 2300, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. The Weston office located at 2843 Executive Park Drive, Weston, FL 33311 . For more information log on to www.WestonLawyers.com.