

LOCAL BROWARD LOCAL

The Miami Herald

SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 6, 1994

Jury awards \$2 million to Davie boy

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A 6-year-old Davie boy who suffered brain damage at birth because the county's biggest hospital failed to get him medical help in time was awarded \$2 million by a Broward jury late Friday.

The three-man, three-woman jury ordered Broward General Medical Center to pay Christopher Bruno \$2,164,790.90 to cover past and future medical care costs, said his attorney Scott Schlesinger.

'We just hope and pray that we're going to be able to collect on the judgment.'

ROSALIE BRUNO, mother of brain-damaged boy

"We're very satisfied with the verdict," Christopher's mother, Rosalie Bruno, said. "We worry how Christopher is going to be taken care of in the future, that's our main concern. We just hope and pray that we're going to be able to collect on the judgment."

The jury's award is capped at \$200,000 because of the state's sovereign immunity law, which is intended to protect taxpayers from frivolous and expensive lawsuits against public entities. The Brunos must ask the state Legislature to approve the full

\$2.16 million judgment.

The case dates from Nov. 18, 1988.

His mother's labor had progressed quickly. She needed an emergency delivery but her private physician had not arrived. The hospital was in the middle of a shift change, and an in-house physician did not arrive until half an hour later, Schlesinger said.

By the time Christopher was born, the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck and he was blue from lack of oxygen.