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Local

“Jury gives parents \$2.15 million for emergency room’s negligence” by Trevor Jensen

A Broward jury on Tuesday awarded \$2.15 million to the parents of a teen-ager who died after waiting in the emergency room of a Fort Lauderdale hospital for five hours with three stab wounds in his back.

Allan Owens, II, 17 died after doctors at Broward General Medical Center finally realized the severity of his wounds and took him into surgery, said Scott Schlesinger, attorney for Allan and Sue Owens of Fort Lauderdale.

“Emergency care should be just that” Schlesinger said. “People sit for hours in the emergency room all over the place.”

The younger Owens was stabbed Sept. 22, 1988, by the father of a friend. Owens was at his friend’s home when the father, who had left earlier during a family fight, returned and stabbed Owens three times in the back with a butcher knife.

Edward Savory was convicted in June 1989 of second-degree murder and is serving a 25-year prison sentence.

After the stabbing, Owens was taken to Broward General, where the first doctor to see him, Evan Tow, noted his blood pressure was stable and diagnosed his wounds as only superficial, Schlesinger, said.

A subsequent doctor, Imod Tabry, also failed to provide immediate care, Schlesinger said.

After a six-week trial, the jury found the doctors and the North Broward Hospital District, doing business as Broward General, were negligent in handling Owens’ case.

The jury assigned 48 percent of the blame to the hospital, 44 percent to Tow and 8 percent to Tabry.