

The family of a 64-year-old Perkins County man who died after he developed an infection, filed a lawsuit against Great Plains Regional Medical Center and two local physicians.

The wrongful death lawsuit was filed by Rhonda Kosmicki, the administrator of the estate of her late husband, Paul Kosmicki.

The lawsuit says that Drs. Ron Asher, Christopher Seip and Great Plains Regional Medical Center were negligent in the treatment of Kosmicki.

Kosmicki saw Seip on Dec. 13, 2006, for wounds located on the toes of his left foot, according to the suit, and had been referred by Asher.

On Dec. 22, 2006, Kosmicki was admitted to GPRMC for a left, below the knee amputation, the lawsuit said. The lawsuit said he remained a patient in the hospital through Dec. 28, 2006.

The lawsuit said that Kosmicki developed pressure sores on his back and buttocks during his stay in the hospital and was released to be cared for by his wife and health care nurses from Perkins County Health Services.

It was then, according to the lawsuit, that Kosmicki's wife and home health care nurses noticed the sores.

Kosmicki was transferred to St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln on Jan. 12, 2007, and discovered that the left below the knee amputation stump had become infected, the lawsuit said.

Kosmicki then underwent an above the knee amputation and surgery to heal the sores on his back and buttocks.

The lawsuit said that Kosmicki did not wean off the ventilator and died after the operation.

The lawsuit said the hospital failed to properly elevate the buttocks of Kosmicki, failed to turn and maneuver him on a periodic basis to avoid the sores, and failed to advise Asher and Seip of the sores.

A trial date has not been set.

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