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Six claim Wheaton negligent in operating Pain Clinic

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OELWEIN – Six people have jointly filed a lawsuit against the Mercy Hospital Pain Clinic, that once operated in Oelwein, and the two nurse anesthetists that worked there.

The plaintiffs have brought eight counts against Perry Comeau, Keith Barnhill and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, the controlling entity of the Pain Clinic. Those counts include charges of negligence, medical battery, failure to disclose information to patients, violating Iowa code, unjust enrichment, negligent and intentional misrepresentation, and conspiracy.



Mercy Hospital

The six plaintiffs are Kelli Haun, Charles Nicolay, Sherry Meike and Shirley Ziegler, all of Oelwein, and Dorna Hartgrave, currently of Milwaukee, Wis., and Keith Koile of Fairbank.

All the plaintiffs are former patients of Comeau and Barnhill and received treatment at the now defunct Pain Clinic.

Comeau was the director of the Clinic, and he and Barnhill both acted as nurse anesthetists there.

The lawsuit claims that the plaintiffs received unnecessary and excessive pain injections and related procedures at the Clinic, for the purpose of generating income for the defendants. It also claims that the defendants jointly concealed from the plaintiffs, and other patients, the lack of medical basis or justification for the types of treatments they were performing, and often provided treatment beyond their expertise without the knowledge of the plaintiff's treating physicians.

It is also alleged that the Clinic used billing codes for procedures that were not consistent with the procedure actually performed, and that the plaintiffs were overcharged and over treated.

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