

ALFIE JOHNSON v DUDLEY GROUP OF HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

On 11 November 2007, Victoria Johnson was admitted to Russell Hall Hospital, Dudley to give birth to her son, Alfie. He was delivered at 1451 by a student midwife following a long second stage labour.

Alfie was born in a poor and floppy condition and treated on a resuscitaire. He was transferred to a neonatal unit and was suffering from fits. Anti-convulsant drugs were administered.

It is thought that Alfie was probably asphyxiated by an obstructed umbilical cord which was not picked up by midwives. It is likely that he was starved of oxygen for up to twenty-five minutes before he was born. As a result Alfie has suffered catastrophic brain damage and will never be able to live independently as a result. He requires round the clock care.

This case is currently ongoing and it is alleged that had the midwives handling the birth called for an obstetrician earlier then Alfie is unlikely to have suffered any of the acute brain damage he has. It is further alleged that Victoria was insufficiently and negligently monitored, with the student midwife inadequately supervised, and that some midwifery notes were added retrospectively when they purport to be contemporaneous records.

JMW Solicitors have obtained full admissions from the Defendant Trust and judgment will be entered on Alfie's behalf.

Alfie's case has the benefit of Legal Aid funding and without which it is unlikely that this case would have got off the ground. The upfront reports required to prove liability in a case like this are highly complex, which makes for numerous costly reports that Alfie's family simply could not have funded.

Further, the complex issues in dispute make it unlikely that an insurer would have been willing to risk insuring this case. The upshot of this is that Alfie's story may have gone unheard and without legal aid to fund his claim, his right to seeking justice would have been denied.

