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## Widow settles for \$1.9M over fatal dental procedure

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Law Bulletin staff writer

The wife of a 55-year-old man who died during a dental filling procedure settled her wrongful-death lawsuit against a north suburban dentist for \$1.9 million.

An agreement was approved last month in Waukegan by Lake County Circuit Judge Jorge L. Ortiz.

In October 2016, Richard Greuel had an appointment with Vernon Hills sedation dentist William R. Kisker for a filling procedure.

Greuel had obstructive sleep apnea, a condition where a person's airways become blocked when asleep or sedated, resulting in less oxygen reaching the lungs. Oxygen desaturation occurs when the oxygen levels in the blood fall repeatedly.

Prior to October 2016, Greuel saw Kisker on a few occasions for routine procedures but when he was given anesthetics he experienced "significant desaturation" due to his sleep apnea, according to his wife's attorney, J. Matthew Dudley of Dudley & Lake in Libertyville.

Greuel was also represented by Marisa C. Schostok of Dudley & Lake.

When Greuel went in for the filling procedure, Kisker administered sedatives without a doctor trained in advanced cardiac life support and one who could properly monitor his oxygen levels given his previous issues.

Greuel suffered respiratory depression which led to cardiac arrest and a noxious brain injury, Dudley said. He said the automated external defibrillator in the office was not working. When he was taken to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville he was determined to be brain dead.

He died seven days later after being taken off life support, Dudley said.

Theresa Greuel sued Kisker and his employer, Dental Care Providers of America Ltd., alleging the dentist did not recognize or understand the seriousness of the warning signs when Greuel became hypoxic during past procedures.

The suit also contended the amount of sedatives given to Greuel was beyond what was necessary for the procedure, and the office did not have anything available at the time to reverse the effects of the narcotics.

Dudley said Kisker is no longer a practicing dentist in Illinois.

He said his client “would give every penny back to have her husband alive” but she was glad to see Kisker held accountable for the “egregious, reckless” care that occurred.

The defendants were represented by Robert J. Kelleher of Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer P.A. He could not be reached for comment.

The 19th Judicial Circuit Court case is *Theresa Greuel v. Dental Care Providers of America Ltd., et al.*, 17 L 465.

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