

STATE OF COLORADO

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

January 13, 2000
Case # 5199020580

Traci D. Simms, M.D.
% Women's Health Care
2525 N. 8th St., Ste. 202
Grand Junction, CO 81201

Dear Dr. Simms:

Inquiry Panel B of the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners has concluded its inquiry regarding your role in the care and treatment of patient D.B. and her infant S.M. The Panel determined that the matter may not warrant the commencement of formal proceedings against your license to practice medicine. However, the Panel voted to administer disciplinary action to you in the form of this letter of admonition.

Board records reflect that prior to your involvement, 15 year-old obstetrical patient D.B. had received poor prenatal care and had a questionable date of conception. A previous ultrasound performed in Missouri was consistent with 42 weeks. After D.B. presented to you, you appropriately offered amniocentesis, which the patient and her father declined. You then appropriately decided to proceed as if this was a post-date pregnancy and ordered a non-stress test, which was non-reactive, and a biophysical profile, which was scored at 6 out of 8. You then properly recommended that D.B. be admitted at St. Mary's Hospital, which had a level II nursery. However, the patient and her father instead chose to proceed to Community Hospital for induction of labor.

At Community Hospital, pitocin induction was performed. The patient made slow but gradual progress throughout the labor course. At the time that D.B. reached complete dilatation and began pushing, fetal bradycardia occurred, and an internal scalp electrode was placed, confirming this bradycardia. You attempted multiple vacuum extractions and then a forceps delivery. After those attempts were unsuccessful, you performed an emergency cesarean section. The infant had apgars of 0, 4, and 4.

There have been medical experts who determined that your care of D.B. met the applicable standards of care and other medical experts who determined that it did not meet the applicable standards of care.

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The Panel has found that your labor management of D.B. during the second stage of labor constituted unprofessional conduct. Specifically, the Panel found that you should have immediately called the cesarean section when the first vacuum attempt did not result in delivery or a reassuring fetal heart pattern. Instead, there was a significant delay prior to deciding to proceed with a Ccesarean section. There was also delayed ability of the operating room staff to respond due to the rural setting. Your delay in adequately recognizing fetal distress was one of the several factors that contributed to the infant being significantly neurologically compromised.

By this letter, the Panel hereby admonishes you and cautions you that complaints disclosing any repetition of such practice may lead to the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings against your license to practice medicine, wherein this letter of admonition may be entered into evidence as aggravation. You have agreed to accept this letter of admonition.

You are advised that you have the right within twenty (20) days after receipt of this letter to make written request that formal disciplinary proceedings be initiated against you to adjudicate the propriety of the conduct upon which this letter of admonition is based. If such request is timely made, this letter of admonition will be deemed vacated, and the matter will be processed by means of a formal complaint and hearing, in accordance with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act governing the discipline of licensed physicians.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
INQUIRY PANEL B



Pamela L. Kimbrough, M.D.
Chair

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