#### SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Civil Division

PHILIP CHARLAND, Individually, and as Personal Representative of the Estate of REBECCA CAREY CHARLAND, deceased, and as Father and Next Friend to M.M.C. and P.D.C., Minors 14773 Keavy Ridge Court Haymarket, VA 20169

Plaintiff,

٧.

0004244-11 Civil Action No.\_\_\_

WASHINGTON SURGI-CLINIC, INC.

Serve R/A: Cesare F. Santangelo, M.D. 2112 F. Street, N.W.

Suite 400/401

Washington, DC 20037

And

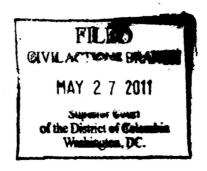
CESARE F. SANTANGELO, M.D. Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc. 2112 F. Street, N.W., #400/401 Washington, DC 20037

And

CHERYL V. LYNCH, CRNA 2400 Riverview Drive, #295 Colonial Beach, VA 22443

Defendants.





#### **COMPLAINT**

(Medical Negligence - Wrongful Death - Survival)

#### COUNT 1

(Survival Action Claim)



- Jurisdiction of this Court is founded on District of Columbia Code Section
   11-921 (2001.Ed.)
- 2. Plaintiff, Philip Charland, is of full age, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia. On or about July 20, 2010, Plaintiff was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Rebecca Carey Charland, deceased, Court File No. W-13564 by the Clerk of the Court for Prince William County Circuit Court, Virginia.
- 3. At all times relevant hereto, plaintiff Philip Charland was lawfully married to decedent Rebecca Carey Charland. M.M.C. and P.D.C. are the biological minor children of decedent Rebecca Carey Charland and plaintiff Philip Charland.
- 4. At all times relevant hereto, defendant Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc., was a District of Columbia corporation, a medical business entity specializing in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, and providing healthcare services, through it employees and real and/or ostensible agents, to individuals in need thereof, including decedent Rebecca Carey Charland.
- 5. At all times relevant hereto, defendant Cesare F. Santangelo, M.D., was a physician practicing in the field obstetrics and gynecology, and at all times relevant herein was duly licensed in the District of Columbia to provide healthcare services to persons in need thereof, including decedent Rebecca Cary Charland. Dr. Santangelo is sued individually and as an employee and real and/or ostensible agent of, and was acting within the scope of his employment and/or agency with, defendant Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc.

- 6. At all times relevant hereto, defendant Cheryl V. Lynch, CRNA, was a nurse anesthetist licensed to practice in D.C. and Virginia. Upon information and belief, Cheryl V. Lynch, CRNA is a resident of Virginia. Nurse Lynch is sued individually and as an employee and real and/or ostensible agent of, and was acting in the scope of her employment and/or agency with defendant Washington Surgi-Clini, Inc.
- 7. At all times relevant hereto, defendants held themselves out to the public as healthcare providers who would render reasonably competent treatment to those who came under their professional care.
- 8. Plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland received obstetrical care and treatment for her pregnancy from Supriya Varma, M.D. in Reston, VA.
- 9. Plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland was a high risk pregnancy with her condition of antiphospholipid syndrome and required Lovenox and aspirin.
- 10. On or about May 17, 2010 plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland underwent an ultrasound which showed intra-uterine fetal demise. The gestational age of the fetus by last menstrual period was 20 2/7 weeks. On ultrasound the fetus's size was consistent with 16-17 weeks gestational age. Plaintiff's decedent discontinued her use of Lovenox and aspirin at that time.
- 11. On or about May 18, 2010 plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland was referred by Dr. Varma to defendant Dr. Santangelo to undergo a dilatation and evacuation (D&E) procedure at his outpatient clinic.
- 12. On or about May 19, 2010 plaintiff Philip Charland and plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland had an appointment with defendant Dr. Santangelo at Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc., in Washington, D.C., during which time the procedure

was discussed and the first stage initiated with the insertion of the laminaria sticks. An appointment was made for May 20, 2010 for the procedure to be completed.

- 13. On or about that same date defendant Dr. Santangelo was aware of plaintiff's decedent's antiphospholipid syndrome, her use of Lovenox and baby aspirin until 5/17/10, and that the ultrasound showed a fetus consistent with 16-17 weeks gestational age despite the gestational age by LMP was 20 2/7 weeks, indicating the fetus may have been deceased for 2+ weeks.
- 14. On or about May 20, 2010 plaintiff and plaintiff's decedent arrived for their appointment at defendant Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc. Plaintiff's decedent was examined and the dilatation was determined not to be sufficient so additional laminaria sticks were inserted and she was told to return to the clinic later that day.
- 15. Plaintiff and plaintiff's decedent returned to defendant Washington Surgi-Clinic a couple of hours later and were told to wait for defendant Dr. Santangelo to return to the clinic.
- 16. On that same day, while waiting in the clinic, plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland began complaining of abdominal pain.
- 17. At approximately 1438 the D&E procedure was performed by defendant Dr. Santangelo. Plaintiff's decedent's blood pressure was documented at that time as approximately 138/90 and her pulse as approximately 95.
- 18. During the procedure being performed by defendant Dr. Santangelo plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland's oxygen saturation levels decreased and she became cyanotic. This was documented in the Anesthesia Record as occurring at

approximately 1445. The plaintiff's decedent's blood pressure was recorded as approximately 120/70 and her pulse as approximately 100.

- 19. Plaintiff's decedent was intubated at or around 1449. Her blood pressure was recorded as approximately 100/58 and her pulse as approximately 70.
  - 20. Plaintiff's decedent was given epinephrine, atropine, and bicarb.
  - 21. At approximately 1458 911 was called.
- 22. At approximately 1503 D. C. Fire and Rescue arrived at defendant Washington Surgi-Clinic and found plaintiff's decedent to be pulseless and profoundly cyanotic with purple demarcation line from the nipple line up. CPR was initiated and after 1 minute of CPR plaintiff's decedent's color improved, torso, face, and extremities pink and pupils became PEARL.
- 23. At approximately 1512 plaintiff's decedent became pulseless and required defibrillation.
- 24. At approximately 1525 plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland was transported by D.C. Fire & Rescue to George Washington University Hospital.
- 25. Plaintiff's decedent had massive uterine bleeding and went into disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC).
  - 26. On May 29, 2010, plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland died.
- 27. The autopsy performed on the plaintiff's decedent showed that the microscopic examination of the lungs was consistent with the presence of squamous cells, lanugo hair, and fat (fetal debris).
- 28. At all times relevant hereto defendant Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc., individually, and through their respective employees and real and/or ostensible agents,

including but not limited to, the individually named defendants; defendant Cesare F. Santangelo, M.D., individually, and as employee and/or agent, real and/or ostensible, of defendant Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc., and defendant Cheryl V. Lynch, CRNA, individually and as an employee and/or agent real and/or ostensible, of defendant Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc., were negligent in their care and treatment of decedent Rebecca Carey Charland by, including, but not limited to, the following particulars:

- (a) Failed to treat and care for Rebecca Carey Charland adequately and completely under the circumstances existing;
- (b) Failed to respond to the complaints, signs and symptoms of Rebecca Carey Charland;
- (c) Failed to consider the medical risks to which Rebecca Carey Charland was particularly susceptible, including but not limited to, disseminated intravascular coagulation and hemorrhage;
- (d) Failed to make proper diagnoses;
- (e) Failed to carry out the proper medical procedures;
- (f) Failed to administer appropriate and proper treatment;
- (g) Failed to make proper differential diagnoses; and
- (h) Failed to advise Rebecca Carey Charland of the risks to which she was particularly susceptible;
- (i) Failed to advise Rebecca Carey Charland that (a) the D&E procedure could be done in a hospital setting; (b) given her medical history, including antiphospholipid syndrome, use of Lovenox and aspirin, and the fetal demise had occurred 2+ weeks prior that it would be safer for her to undergo the D&E procedure in a hospital setting; and (c) Dr. Santangelo did not have any hospital privileges and could not perform the D&E in a hospital setting;

- (j) Failed to refer Rebecca Carey Charland to a physician that could perform the D&E procedure in a hospital setting;
- (k) Failed to obtain lab work, including but not limited to, PT, PTT, INR, prior to performing the D&E procedure;
- (l) Failed to perform appropriate resuscitation efforts, including but not limited to compressions;
  - (m) Failed to timely call 911;
  - (n) Plaintiff also relies on res ipsa loquitur and lack of informed consent; and
  - (o) defendants were otherwise negligent.
- 29. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned negligence of the defendants, decedent Rebecca Carey Charland, suffered pain and suffering, neurological injuries, bodily injuries, disabilities, mental anguish, apprehension of impending death, disfigurement, deformities, inconvenience and discomfort, and died on May 29, 2010.
- 30. The claim for damages of plaintiff's decedent Rebecca Carey Charland, occasioned by the injuries aforesaid, including an allowance for prospective loss of earnings during her normal life expectancy, the medical expenses incurred relating to her treatment May 19, 2010 through May 29, 2010, burial expenses, an allowance for pain and suffering, and the aforementioned injuries, passed under the Survival Act of the District of Columbia to the plaintiff as Personal Representative of the Estate of Rebecca Carey Charland, deceased.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Philip Charland, as Personal representative of the Estate of Rebecca Carey Charland, deceased, demands judgment against defendants, Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc., Cesare F. Santangelo, M.D., and Cheryl V. Lynch,

CRNA, jointly and severally, in the full sum of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00), plus costs and interest.

#### **COUNT II**

(Wrongful Death Act Claims on Behalf of Spouse and Minor Children)

- 1-30. Plaintiff Philip Charland, individually and on behalf of decedent's minor children and heirs, M.M.C. and P.D.C., incorporates by reference the numbered paragraphs 1-30 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 30 of Count II.
- 31. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' negligence, plaintiff Philip Charland and M.M.C. and P.D.C., minors, have been injured and damaged, including, but not limited to, pecuniary loss, the value of lost support, lost care, education, training, guidance, parental advice, and services caused by decedent's death.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Philip Charland, individually and on behalf of decedent's minor children and heirs, M.M.C. and P.D.C., demands judgment against defendants, Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc., Cesare F. Santangelo, M.D. and Cheryl V. Lynch, CRNA, jointly and severally, in the full sum of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) for Philip Charland, the full sum of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) for M.M.C., and the full sum of Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) for P.D.C., plus costs and interest.

JACK H. OLENDER

#9563

HARLOW CASE

#270645

SANDRA ROBINSON #386469

MELISSA RHEA #367196

KAREN E. EVANS #426067

JACK H. OLENDER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
888 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 879-7777

Attorneys for Plaintiff

And

CHARLES J. ZAUZIG, III # 45176

MELISSA G RAY

# 485%09

NICHOLS ZAUZIG SANDLER PC

12660 Lake Ridge Drive

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

(703) 492-4200

Attorneys for Plaintiff

REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff requests a trial by jury as to all issues so triable

JACK HOLENDER

#9563



#### Superior Court of the District of Columbia CIVIL DIVISION

500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000 Washington, D.C. 20001 Telephone: (202) 879-1133

PHILIP CHARLAND, Individually, and as Personal Representative of the Estate of RESECCA CAREY CHARLAND, deceased, and as Father and Next Friend to M.M.C. and P.D.C., minors

14773 Keavy Ridge Court Haymarket, VA 20169

Plaintiff

VS.

Case Numb 7 0 0 4 2 4 4 - 1 1

CESARE F. SANTANGELO, M.D.

Washington Surgi-Clinic, Inc. 2112 F Street, N.W.

Defendant

Suite 400/401 Washington, DC 20037

Jack H. Olender, Esq.

如需翻译,请打电话 (202) 879-4828

Telephone

**SUMMONS** 

To the above named Defendant: CESARE F. SANTANGELO, M.D.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve an Answer to the attached Complaint, either personally or through an attorney, within twenty (20) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you are being sued as an officer or agency of the United States Government or the District of Columbia Government, you have sixty (60) days after service of this summons to serve your Answer. A copy of the Answer must be mailed to the attorney for the party plaintiff who is suing you. The attorney's name and address appear below. If plaintiff has no attorney, a copy of the Answer must be mailed to the plaintiff at the address stated on this Summons.

You are also required to file the original Answer with the Court in Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays or between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Saturdays. You may file the original Answer with the Court either before you serve a copy of the Answer on the plaintiff or within five (5) days after you have served the plaintiff. If you fail to file an Answer, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Jack H. Olender & Associates, P.C. Clerk of the Court Name of Plaintiff's Attorney 888 17th Street, N.W., 4th Floor Address Washington, DC 20006 (202) 879-7777

Deputy Clerk

Veuillez appeler au (202) 879-4828 pour une traduction

Để có một bài dịch, hãy gọi (202) 879-4828

번역을 원하시면, (202) 879-4828 로 전화주십시요

የአማርኛ ትርጉም ለማግኘት (202) 879-4828 ይደውሱ

IMPORTANT: IF YOU FAIL TO FILE AN ANSWER WITHIN THE TIME STATED ABOVE, OR IF, AFTER YOU ANSWER, YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT ANY TIME THE COURT NOTIFIES YOU TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY DAMAGES OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. IF THIS OCCURS, YOUR WAGES MAY BE ATTACHED OR WITHHELD OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR REAL ESTATE YOU OWN MAY BE TAKEN AND SOLD TO PAY THE JUDGMENT. IF YOU INTEND TO OPPOSE THIS ACTION, DO NOT FAIL TO ANSWER WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME.

If you wish to talk to a lawyer and feel that you cannot afford to pay a fee to a lawyer, promptly contact one of the offices of the Legal Aid Society (202-628-1161) or the Neighborhood Legal Services (202-682-2700) for help or come to Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., for more information concerning places where you may ask for such help.

> See reverse side for Spanish translation Vea al dorso la traducción al español

CASUM.doc FORM SUMMONS - Jan. 2011



## Superior Court of the District of Columbia CIVIL DIVISION

500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000 Washington, D.C. 20001 Telephone: (202) 879-1133

PHILIP CHARLAND, Individually, and as Personal Representative of the Estate of REBECCA CAREY CHARLAND, deceased, and as Father and Next Friend to M.M.C. and P.D.C., minors

14773 Keavy Ridge Court Haymarket, VA 20169 Plaintiff

0004244-11

VS.

Case Number

WASHINGTON SURGI-CLINIC, INC.

Serve: R/A, Cesare F. Santangelo, M.D. 2112 F Street, N.W.

Defendant

Suite 400/401
Washington, DC 20037

SUMMONS

To the above named Defendant: WASHINGTON SURGI-CLINIC, INC.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve an Answer to the attached Complaint, either personally or through an attorney, within twenty (20) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you are being sued as an officer or agency of the United States Government or the District of Columbia Government, you have sixty (60) days after service of this summons to serve your Answer. A copy of the Answer must be mailed to the attorney for the party plaintiff who is suing you. The attorney's name and address appear below. If plaintiff has no attorney, a copy of the Answer must be mailed to the plaintiff at the address stated on this Summons.

You are also required to file the original Answer with the Court in Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays or between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Saturdays. You may file the original Answer with the Court either before you serve a copy of the Answer on the plaintiff or within five (5) days after you have served the plaintiff. If you fail to file an Answer, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Jack H. Olender, Esq.

Jack H. Olender & Associates, P.C.

Name of Plaintiff's Attorney

888 17th Street, N.W., 4th Floor

Address Washington, DC 20006

(202) 879-7777

Telephone

如需翻译,请打电话 (202) 879-4828

Veuillez appeler au (202) 879-4828 pour une traduction

Để có một bài dịch, hãy gọi (202) 879-4828

IMPORTANT: IF YOU FAIL TO FILE AN ANSWER WITHIN THE TIME STATED ABOVE, OR IF, AFTER YOU ANSWER, YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT ANY TIME THE COURT NOTIFIES YOU TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY DAMAGES OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. IF THIS OCCURS, YOUR WAGES MAY BE ATTACHED OR WITHHELD OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR REAL ESTATE YOU OWN MAY BE TAKEN AND SOLD TO PAY THE JUDGMENT. IF YOU INTEND TO OPPOSE THIS ACTION, DO NOT FAIL TO ANSWER WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME.

If you wish to talk to a lawyer and feel that you cannot afford to pay a fee to a lawyer, promptly contact one of the offices of the Legal Aid Society (202-628-1161) or the Neighborhood Legal Services (202-682-2700) for help or come to Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., for more information concerning places where you may ask for such help.

See reverse side for Spanish translation Vea al dorso la traducción al español

FORM SUMMONS - Jan. 2011 CASUM.doc

### Superior Court of the District of Columbia CIVIL DIVISION

500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000 Washington, D.C. 20001 Telephone: (202) 879-1133

PHILIP CHARLAND, Individually, and as Personal Representative of the Estate of RESECCA CARRY CHARLAND, deceased, and as Father and Next Friend to M.M.C. and P.D.C., minors

U004244-11

Clerk of the Court

14773 Keavy Ridge Court Haymarket, VA 20169

vs.

Case Number

CHERYL V. LYNCH, CRNA

2400 Riverview Drive

Defendant

#295 Colonial Beach, VA 22443

**SUMMONS** 

To the above named Defendant:

CHERYL V. LYNCH, CRNA

You are hereby summoned and required to serve an Answer to the attached Complaint, either personally or through an attorney, within twenty (20) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you are being sued as an officer or agency of the United States Government or the District of Columbia Government, you have sixty (60) days after service of this summons to serve your Answer. A copy of the Answer must be mailed to the attorney for the party plaintiff who is suing you. The attorney's name and address appear below. If plaintiff has no attorney, a copy of the Answer must be mailed to the plaintiff at the address stated on this Summons.

You are also required to file the original Answer with the Court in Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays or between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Saturdays. You may file the original Answer with the Court either before you serve a copy of the Answer on the plaintiff or within five (5) days after you have served the plaintiff. If you fail to file an Answer, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Jack H. Olender, Esq.

Jack H. Olender & Associates, P.C.

Name of Plaintiff's Attorney

888 17th Street, N.W., 4th Floor

Address

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 879-7777

Telephone

如需翻译,请打电话 (202) 879-4828

Veuillez appeler au (202) 879-4828 pour une traduction

/ Để có một bài dịch, hãy gọi (202) 879-4828

Deputy Clerk

번역을 원하시면, (202) 879-4828 로 전화주십시요 የአማርኛ ትርንም ለማግኘት (202) 879-4828 ይደውሉ

IMPORTANT: IF YOU FAIL TO FILE AN ANSWER WITHIN THE TIME STATED ABOVE, OR IF, AFTER YOU ANSWER, YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT ANY TIME THE COURT NOTIFIES YOU TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY DAMAGES OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. IF THIS OCCURS, YOUR WAGES MAY BE ATTACHED OR WITHHELD OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR REAL ESTATE YOU OWN MAY BE TAKEN AND SOLD TO PAY THE JUDGMENT. IF YOU INTEND TO OPPOSE THIS ACTION, DO NOT FAIL TO ANSWER WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME.

If you wish to talk to a lawyer and feel that you cannot afford to pay a fee to a lawyer, promptly contact one of the offices of the Legal Aid Society (202-628-1161) or the Neighborhood Legal Services (202-682-2700) for help or come to Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., for more information concerning places where you may ask for such help.

See reverse side for Spanish translation Vea al dorso la traducción al español

# Superior Court of the District of Columbia

CIVIL DIVISION - CIVIL ACTIONS BRANCH

#### INFORMATION SHEET

PHILIP CHARLAND, et al.	·····	Case Number 0 0 0 4 2 4 4 - 1 1
vs		Date:
WASHINGTON SURGI-CLINIC, INC.   One of the defendants is being sued		
	in their	r official capacity.
Name: (please print) Jack H. Olender		Relationship to Lawsuit  Attorney for Plaintiff
Firm Name: Jack H. Olender & Associates, P.C.		☐ Self (Pro Se) Other:
Telephone No.: Si (202) 879-7777	x digit Unified Bar No.: 9563	o more
TYPE OF CASE: Non-Jury Demand:\$ 80,000,000.00	6 Person Jury Other:	☐ 12 Person Jury
PENDING CASE(S) RELATED TO THE Case No.:		Calendar #:
Case No.:	Judge:	Calendar #:
NATURE OF SUIT: (Check One Box Only)		
A. CONTRACTS  O1 Breach of Contract O2 Breach of Warranty O6 Negotiable Instrument  15  COLLECTION CASES  COLLECTION CASES  14 Under \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent  16 Under \$25,000 Consent Denied  17 OVER \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent		
B. PROPERTY TORTS  01 Automobile 02 Conversion 07 Shoplifting, D.C. Code § 27-102(a)	☐ 03 Destruction of Private Prope ☐ 04 Property Damage	erty 05 Trespass 06 Traffic Adjudication
C. PERSONAL TORTS  O1 Abuse of Process O2 Alienation of Affection O3 Assault and Battery O4 Automobile-Personal Injury O5 Deceit (Misrepresentation) O6 False Accusation O7 False Arrest O8 Fraud	☐ 09 Harassment ☐ 10 Invasion of Privacy ☐ 11 Libel and Slander ☐ 12 Malicious Interference ☐ 13 Malicious Prosecution ☐ 14 Malpractice Legal ☐ 15 Malpractice Medical (Including ☐ 16 Negligence-(Not Autom Not Malpractice)	□ 20 Friendly Suit □ 21 Asbestos □ 22 Toxic/Mass Torts