

Michael T. Rooney, Esq.
Atty ID:1351998
1515 Market Street, Suite 1200
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Email: mrooney47@comcast.net
Phone: 215.854.4085
Attorneys for Plaintiff

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

RAMONA ESTRELLA	:	CIVIL ACTION
1229 N. 22 nd Street	:	
Camden, New Jersey 08105	:	DOCKET NO. _____
PLAINTIFF,	:	
-V-	:	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
AND	:	
ERIC KFIR YAHAV, M.D.	:	MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE
1 Alpha Avenue, Suite 27	:	
Voorhees, New Jersey 08043	:	
-AND-	:	
CAMCARE HEALTH CORPORATION	:	
817 Federal Street	:	
Camden, NJ 08103	:	
-AND-	:	COMPLAINT-JURY DEMAND
JOHN DOE CORPORATIONS A through J,	:	
-AND-JOHN DOES A through J, (fictitiously	:	
named entities and persons whose identities	:	
are unknown to Plaintiff),	:	
Defendant(s).	:	

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Plaintiff RAMONA ESTRELLA, by and through her undersigned attorney, by way of her Complaint, states as follows:

THE PARTIES:

1. Plaintiff RAMONA ESTRELLA is an adult individual residing at the address in the caption and a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for purposes of divers.

2. Defendant the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is deemed to be the employer of the below named defendants pursuant to the Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act (FSHCAA) 42 U.S.C. Sect. 233.

3. Defendant ERIC KFIR YAHAV, M.D., is an adult individual whose principal place of business is at the address in the caption, where he may be served with summons, and who, at all times relevant herein, was a licensed physician in the State of New Jersey and held himself out to the public as a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology in the State of New Jersey.

4. Defendant CAMCARE HEALTH CORPORATION, INC., is a domestic non-profit corporation or other business entity established under the laws of the State of New Jersey, with its principal place of business at the address in the caption, and which was the actual or ostensible employer, master or principal of certain individual persons as set forth below, and which may be served with summons at the address in the caption.

5. Defendant(s) JOHN DOE CORPORATIONS A through J, are fictitiously named corporations or other business entities whose identities are not presently known to the Plaintiff RAMONA ESTRELLA and may be known to the named Defendants which participated in the care and treatment of Plaintiff in one or more of the following capacities: actual or ostensible employers, masters, staffing agencies, or principals, or actual or ostensible agents, servants and/or employees of any of the named Defendants; suppliers or distributors of goods and/or services to the Plaintiff during her care and treatment at the times complained of herein; manufacturers, sellers, designers, packagers, marketers, or distributors of certain surgical products or supplies implanted, replaced, or removed from the Plaintiff; or in any other

way participated in the care and treatment of the Plaintiff and who are or may be liable to the Plaintiff for injuries and harm and damages caused to her as alleged hereinafter.

6. Defendant(s) JOHN DOES A through J, whether male or female, are fictitiously named individuals whose identities are not presently known to the Plaintiff RAMONA ESTRELLA and who may be known to the named Defendants, who participated in the care and treatment of Plaintiff in one or more of the following capacities: health care assistants or professionals; pre-operative, operative or recovery room personnel; nurses, nurses' assistants or CNA's; interns, residents or fellows; actual or ostensible agents, servants and/or employees of any of the named Defendants or any of the John Doe Corporations or individuals, whether known or unknown to the Plaintiff at the present time, or who otherwise participated in the care and treatment of the Plaintiff, including the provision or supply of any services or products, and who are or may be liable to the Plaintiff for the injuries and harm and damages caused to her under the theories of liability as alleged hereinafter.

JURISDICTION:

6. This action for medical negligence which allegedly occurred on or about August 27, 2012 was originally filed in The Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, Camden County, Law Division on August 25, 2014, Case Number CAM-L-003331-14. This was within the two-year statute of limitation for medical negligence cases.

7. An Affidavit of Merit was timely served on defendants on November 24, 2014.

8. Defendants failed to file answers or other responsive pleading within the time allowed and a default was entered by the Superior Court on May 4, 2015.

9. On June 24, 2015 the local deputy U.S. Attorney filed a notice of removal to this court.

10. Plaintiff's case was dismissed without prejudice on March 29, 2016; however, plaintiff was allowed 60 days to file its Federal Tort Claim Act (FTCA) administrative claim to exhaust her administrative remedies.

11. The FTCA was served by email on May 25, 2016 and by certified mail on May 27, 2016.

12. The plaintiff's FTCA was denied on September 30, 2016.

13. Plaintiff filed a request for reconsideration on March 21, 2017.

14. The time for the defendants to respond has expired. This may be construed as a denial.

THE MEDICAL EVENTS AND PERSONAL INJURIES AND BACKGROUND:

15. Prior to the events complained of, Plaintiff RAMONA ESTRELLA came under the care and treatment of Defendant ERIC KFIR YAHAV, M.D. (hereinafter "YAHAV" or "Dr. Yahav"), a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, for general gynecological services, prenatal care and childbirth, and follow up gynecological care including placement of an intrauterine device, its later removal and replacement with a different IUD, as set forth in more detail below.

16. Defendant Yahav was aware of Plaintiff's medical history.

17. Prior to the subject procedures in August of 2012, Plaintiff, then a minor child of 17, was in relative good health and had a healthy child born on July 5, 2012, without complication, after which she sought contraception by means of an IUD.

18. There is no indication in the records or reports of Defendant YAHAV that he adequately advised Plaintiff concerning the risks and dangers as well as benefits of using a contraceptive intrauterine device,

or that he could misplace it, or that it could malfunction, or that he could mistakenly insert a Paragard IUD (which contains copper as a method of spermicide) rather than a Mirena IUD which contains hormones as the method of preventing conception; furthermore, it does not appear in the records that he warned her about the possibility of becoming unable to bear children as a consequence of using an IUD.

19. On August 27, 2012, Defendant Yahav performed a procedure in the CAMCARE Health facility in which he reportedly inserted a Paragard IUD in the Plaintiff's uterus rather than a Mirena IUD, which is what Plaintiff requested and consented to; Dr. Yahav did not advise plaintiff of the change in device.

20. Following the August 27, 2012, procedure in which the Paragard IUD was inserted, which was not the device which Plaintiff selected, Plaintiff complained of ongoing and extreme and worsening pain in her abdomen and further experienced severe internal hemorrhaging and bleeding .

21. On August 30, 2012, following a phone call to the CAMCARE facility to describe her pain and symptoms, a physician told her through the nurse to go directly to the Emergency Room at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey, which she did.

22. On August 30, 2012, Dr. Yahav met Plaintiff at the hospital and performed a laparoscopic procedure in which the Paragard IUD, described grossly as a "copper T" IUD by a pathologist, was removed; the device was found behind the uterus in the intra-abdominal cavity.

23. In the records, the device was described as having been "misplaced" and having "malfunctioned."

24. Prior to each of Plaintiff's procedures, Dr. YAHAV and others involved in her medical care failed to develop an adequate differential diagnosis, failed to adequately examine and order diagnostic studies, and otherwise failed to give her adequate pre-operative assessment and care.

25. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and medical malpractice of the Defendants Plaintiff sustained serious, permanent, incurable, and disabling injuries to the organs in her pelvic and abdominal areas, including internal abdominal scarring and other injuries and conditions, which place her in greater risk of harm in the future, and in all probability, have harmed her in making her unable to have children in the future.

26. As a further direct and proximate result of the negligence of the Defendants Plaintiff has sustained substantial special damages including medical bills in the past and future and incurred additional liens and subrogation interests which have to be accounted for out of any recovery made from responsible Defendants herein, including a substantial Medicare or Medicaid lien.

27. As a further direct and proximate result of the negligence of the healthcare Defendants, Plaintiff has sustained in the past and will sustain in the future lost wages and lost earning capacity.

28. As a further direct and proximate result of the negligence of the Defendants, Plaintiff has sustained substantial general damages for severe and continuing pain and suffering, loss of enjoyment of life in the past and future, disability, physical deformity, scarring, impairment of functional abilities, embarrassment, inconvenience, humiliation, and other unliquidated damages for the harm caused to her.

29. The negligent acts and omissions of the Defendants combined and commingled to cause, contributed to cause and were substantial factors in causing the harm, injuries and damages to the Plaintiff.

30. Defendants are or may be liable to the Plaintiff on theories of direct liability as well as vicarious liability for the acts and omissions of their actual or ostensible agents, servants and employees, and the doctrine of *respondeat superior* is claimed herein.

31. The Defendants at all times relevant, had sole custody and control of all instrumentalities used in the surgeries upon Plaintiff, while Plaintiff was under anesthesia, and otherwise unable to help herself or avoid the harm being caused, and the harm complained of normally does not occur without acts or omissions in negligence, and therefore, the doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* is claimed herein.

32. At all times relevant herein, Dr. YAHAV was in charge as the surgeon during the procedures and surgeries on Plaintiff which took place in August of 2012, and had a duty to adequately train, instruct and supervise the physician's assistant, residents, interns, nurses, and other assistants so as to properly care for Plaintiff.

33. At all times relevant herein, Dr. YAHAV and his assistants were employees, agents and/or servants of Defendant CAMCARE HEALTH CORPORATION, INC., and therefore, that Defendant is or may be liable for their negligent acts and omissions and other misconduct.

34. At all times relevant herein, there were involved in the activities of the Defendants unidentified individuals and businesses entities, herein fictitiously named as "John Doe Corporations A through J" and "John Does A through J", who are or may be liable to the Plaintiff along with the named Defendants

on the basis of each of the Counts below, and each Count is intended to include such business entities and individuals, reserving Plaintiff's right to discover their identities and amend her pleading to name them when revealed.

35. The negligent conduct of the named and fictitiously named Defendants, their fraud and misrepresentation combined and commingled to cause, contributed to cause and were substantial factors in causing harm to the plaintiff.

**COUNT I: NEGLIGENCE: MEDICAL MALPRACTICE:
PLAINTIFF V. DEFENDANT ERIC KFIR YAHAV, M.D., AND DEFENDANT CAMCARE
HEALTH CORPORATION, INC.**

36. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

37. At all times relevant herein, Defendants YAHAV, M.D., and the hospital medical staff, and others present in and participating in the incidents complained of, were agents, employees or servants of the Defendant CAMCARE HEALTH CORPORATION, INC., and as such, their employers and/or principals are vicariously liable for their employees', agents' and/or servants' negligent acts and omissions and other misconduct.

38. At all times relevant herein, the Defendants and the are also directly liable for their own negligent acts and omissions to the extent that they participated in the decisions, actions and conduct which caused, contributed to cause, or were substantial factors in causing the harm to Plaintiff as alleged herein.

39. Defendant YAHAV had duties to the Plaintiff as her gynecologist, attending physician, and surgeon, first, to do no harm, and otherwise, to perform the subject surgeries and procedures and

examinations in a manner which met the standards of professional care for a specialist in his field and which was not performed in a manner to the detriment of the best interests of his patient.

40. Defendant YAHAV breached his duties to the Plaintiff, causing her irreparable harm.

41. The negligent acts and omissions of Defendant YAHAV included but were not limited to the following:

- a) Performing a procedure and a surgery in a negligent and careless manner;
- b) Doing inadequate investigation into the potential risks and consequences of performing the procedures in the manner which he performed them;
- c) Using the wrong device in the initial IUD insertion, to-wit: inserting a Paragard device in the Plaintiff instead of a Mirena IUD as requested by and consented to by the Plaintiff;
- d) Inserting the Paragard IUD in the wrong place and in the wrong manner, resulting in its migration outside of the uterus and into the intra-abdominal cavity;
- e) Negligently perforating the Plaintiff's uterus while using a HUMI manipulator device;
- f) Misplacing, misaligning, or mal-positioning the IUD device so that it was not properly inserted into the uterus and was found to be outside and behind the uterus;
- h) Replacing a misplaced, malfunctioning IUD with a different device which also caused problems;
- i) Permitting an incompetent surgical assistant to participate in Plaintiff's procedures;
- j) Failing to adequately supervise assistants and nurses in the operating room;
- k) Failing to obtain adequate consultations before performing surgery;
- l) Using improper technique and performance of a procedure for which the device was contra-indicated;

- m) Knowingly violating the product safety warnings mandated by the United States Food and Drug Administration;
- n) Failing to take into account the condition of the Plaintiff, the contra-indications she had at the time of the initial insertion, failing to note and document the critical physical details of the examination such as the presentation of the uterus prior to insertion, and failure to do an ultrasound.
- o) Being otherwise negligent, grossly negligent and careless in the care and treatment of plaintiff.

42. The above negligent acts and omissions fell below the acceptable standards of care for a gynecologist and gynecological surgeon in the field and were substantial factors in causing the harm to the Plaintiff set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks this court to enter judgment in her favor and against the Defendant(s), jointly and severally, in an amount in excess of \$125,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and such other and further relief, including punitive damages, to which the court may deem her entitled.

**COUNT II: BATTERY: LACK OF INFORMED CONSENT:
PLAINTIFF V. DEFENDANT ERIC KLIF YAHAV, M.D.**

43. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

44. Defendant YAHAV had a duty to advise Plaintiff of all of the significant risks and side effects of the subject procedures, including the risks of failure or negligence in placement of the implanted devices which he selected and placed, and including the increased risk of harm from improper sizing and placement of such hardware, the increased risk to her of the use of the products in ways not approved by the FDA, and the harm which would likely be caused to her by the contraindicated procedure and use of such medical devices.

45. Defendant failed to advise Plaintiff that he was not inserting the Mirena IUD which she had requested and consented to, and instead inserted a Paragard IUD, depriving Plaintiff of the opportunity of giving fully informed consent to the procedure.

46. Defendant YAHAV and the other medical Defendants failed to advise Plaintiff that the procedures she would undergo were either unnecessary or contraindicated.

47. As a result of these failures of the Defendants to fully inform plaintiff and obtain her informed consent, Dr. YAHAV and the other Defendants committed a medical battery upon the Plaintiff, thereby causing her harm.

48. A reasonable person in Plaintiff's position would not have consented to the procedures had she been fully informed of the matters a person would expect the physician to disclose about the benefits and risks of the device, the specific use of the device, which device was being used, the alternatives available to the patient, the "off-label" and/or experimental use of the device and attendant risks, the safety warnings provided which restricted the usage of the device to certain procedures which did not include the procedure selected by Defendants.

49. Plaintiff would not have consented to the surgeries complained of had she been fully apprised of all material and significant risks withheld from her knowledge and of the financial dealings of Dr. YAHAV with the Manufacturing Defendants including, upon information and belief, the presence of sales representative(s) in the locations where she expected to receive care from competent and qualified medical personnel only.

50. The undisclosed risks of the treatment, the misplacement of the device, the malfunctioning of the device and the selection and improper insertion of a different device than the one which Plaintiff requested and consented to, did in fact happen and caused irreparable harm to the Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks this court to enter judgment in her favor and against the Defendant(s), jointly and severally, in an amount in excess of \$125,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and such other and further relief, including punitive damages, to which the court may deem her entitled. forth herein.

51. punitive damages, to which the court may deem her entitled.

**COUNT V: FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT:
PLAINTIFF V. DEFENDANTS YAHAV AND CAMCARE HEALTH CORPORATION INC.**

52. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

53. Under New Jersey law, healthcare providers are required to produce a true, unaltered, and complete copy of a patient's chart or records upon request by the patient or patient's representative within 30 days of such request.

54. Plaintiff's representatives herein requested copies of the medical records and diagnostic films on her behalf from Defendants YAHAV, CAMCARE HEALTH CORPORATION, and third party COOPER UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL by and through STAR-MED CORPORATION.

55. To date, Plaintiff's representative has not received true, unaltered, and complete copies of the requested records or complete diagnostic films in response to Plaintiff's proper requests, including an

executed HIPAA-compliant authorization for the release of the records and tender of payment and has not received an affidavit of any custodian.

56. It is believed and therefore averred that the named providers are fraudulently concealing the records and films in order to deprive plaintiff of her rights to investigate thoroughly and pursue her potential claims against them, individually or in combination.

57. Said records and films were and are material to the proper pursuit of this litigation.

58. Said records and films were and are in the possession of Defendants.

59. Defendants have intentionally withheld, altered and/or destroyed the evidence to prevent plaintiff's representatives from a thorough and accurate investigation into her claims.

60. Plaintiff preserves her rights to present evidence of her damages, amend her pleadings, and to present additional causes of action which may be revealed in the records and films in the underlying actions for medical negligence and/or product liability as the litigation progresses and additional information is discovered.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests the appropriate instructions to the jury at the appropriate time and upon appropriate proof of fraudulent concealment as to each or all of the named defendants or those fictitiously named individuals or corporations later identified and for such damages as have been caused to Plaintiff by such fraudulent concealment and such other and further relief as this Court deems appropriate.

ADDITIONAL CLAIM FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES

61. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

62. Punitive damages claims are not a separate cause of action but an additional claim for damages above and beyond compensatory damages, which are separately demanded as a convenience and for clarity, should the evidence warrant an instruction by the Court to the jury under the heightened standard of judging the conduct of defendants.

63. The conduct of the Defendants was outrageous in that it was malicious, wanton, willful, oppressive and/or showed a reckless indifference to the interests, life, and safety of the Plaintiff, entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages, over and above her compensatory damages in order to punish the Defendants for their outrageous misconduct and to deter the Defendants and others from committing similar acts.

64. The specific act(s) or omission(s) warranting an award of punitive damages include, but are not limited to:

- a) Inserting the wrong IUD without advising Plaintiff or obtaining her consent;
- b) Concealing and minimizing adverse events from the public, patients, physicians, and facilities; in off-label experimental ways;
- c) Taking advantage of patients by experimenting on the patients without their knowledge or consent.

65. Under the New Jersey Punitive Damages Act, 2A:15-5.9 *et seq.*, Defendant(s) acts and omissions caused the harm suffered by plaintiff and they were actuated by actual malice or accompanied by a wanton and willful disregard of persons who foreseeably might be harmed by those acts or omissions, and/or defective products, in that there was a significant likelihood that serious harm would

arise from the conduct or products, and that Defendant(s) was/were highly aware that such reckless disregard would result in serious harm to patients, and the conduct of the Defendant(s) continued for an unreasonable period of time even after it/they knew of the harm being caused by its/their conduct and/or products.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Honorable Court issue judgment in her favor and against all Defendants, individually, jointly, and severally, in a sum in excess of the jurisdictional limit of this court, exclusive of interest and costs, over and above compensatory damages, as and for punitive damages, to punish defendants' outrageous and reckless disregard of the lives and safety of others, and to deter others from similar conduct, together with such other relief as this Court may deem appropriate.

JURY DEMANDED FOR TRIAL.

Attorneys' Lien Requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 29, 2018

s/Michael T. Rooney
Michael T. Rooney, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff