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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Family of 47-Year Old Little Rock Lady Who Suffered Needless Anesthesia Death Files <u>Suit against St. Vincent Health System</u>

Suit was filed in Little Rock, Arkansas, today by the family of 47-year old Janette Cook, who died after being sedated for knee surgery. In Case No. 60CV-13-3009, styled Estate of Janette Cook v. First Initiaves Insurance and St. Vincent Health System, it is alleged that Ms. Cook was admitted for day-surgery on her knee but when she was sedated in the pre-operative holding area the hospital staff left to do other things. Thirty minutes later, a staff member moved her to the operating room but when she was being lifted to the operating room table someone said "hey, she's dead." In fact, she had been dead so long no one attempted to perform CPR.

Attorney for the family, James Girards of Dallas TX said, "Cook's death was preventable because the physicians had already identified her as a patient at high risk for breathing complications upon sedation. All it would have taken to prevent this incident is someone paying attention."

The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages, was filed by the family in order to assure the hospital adopts protocols to prevent similar incidents in the future and to raise awareness of this common danger so that other facilities will also assure they have practices that will prevent such a needless death from occurring anywhere in the state in the future.

The lawsuit papers detailing the incident are available for download at the following web address:

http://www.girardslaw.com/library/POP_FINAL_13jul31.pdf

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