

On June 24, 2017, I was admitted to Riverside Methodist Hospital Labor & Delivery after experiencing bleeding. I was 22 weeks and 2 days pregnant with twins. Hospital staff informed me that if the babies were delivered before 22 weeks and 5 days, there would be no attempt to resuscitate them. However, they said that if they did make it to 22 weeks and 5 days, they would assess and consider intervention.

Three days later, on June 27<sup>th</sup>, I entered hard labor. My mother, who was present, asked hospital staff when the doctor and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) representatives would arrive. Though I was 22 weeks and 5 days in my pregnancy, we were told the babies were coming too early, that NICU would not be present for the birth, and that no effort would be made to help the twins.

I pleaded with nurses and other hospital staff to help try to save my babies. I was told they would not survive. I asked if they would at minimum assess the babies after they were born to determine possibility of survival. I was informed NICU would not assess the twins and that the babies would probably be stillborn or at best breathe for a moment.

Emery was born first. No medical team member was present. He landed on the edge of the bed. My mother demanded assistance from the nurse's station. A neonatal doctor did come in, but just wrapped Emery in a blanket, put him under a heat lamp, and opened his mouth.

Emery did not merely "breathe for a moment." He survived for about 45 minutes before passing away without any assistance from hospital staff.

A couple of hours later, I began to contract again. This time, a doctor delivered Elliot, cut the cord, and laid him on my chest.

Elliot was bigger than Emery. Not only was he breathing, like Emery, but he was also crying. But no one assessed his needs. He lived for two and a half hours while they did nothing.

Though I repeatedly asked staff to help or assess my babies, I was told they were born too young. But there is no documentation to prove they were born too young.

In fact, I had been told previously they would not help if the babies were born *before* 22 weeks and 5 days. Documentation shows I was admitted at 22 weeks 2 days and the babies born at 22 weeks 5 days. Nevertheless, when I begged for help, they refused.

I was discharged with instructions for care after stillbirth. But Emery and Elliot were not stillborn. They were born alive and died as Riverside Methodist Hospital staff denied my pleas for help.

- Amanda [REDACTED]