Mother and Next Friend of

GABRIELLE SHAW, Infant

3523 Cabot Road

Randallstown, Maryland 21133

and

RA'SHAUN RAY

3523 Cabot Road

Randallstown, Maryland 21133

Plaintiff

ν

ERIKA L. NICHELSON, D.O. 6610 Tributary Street, Suite 206 Baltimore, Maryland 21224

and

TERESA HOFFMAN, M.D. AND ASSOCIATES, LLC

301 Saint Paul Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Serve on Resident Agent: Linda H. Jones, Esquire

218 N. Charles Street, Suite 400 Baltimore, Maryland 21201

and

ST. PAUL PLACE SPECIALISTS, INC.

301 Saint Paul Place

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Serve on Resident Agent: Linda H. Jones, Esquire 218 N. Charles Street, Suite 400

Baltimore, Maryland 21201

and

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER, INC.

301 Saint Paul Place

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

IN THE

CIRCUIT COURT

FOR

BALTIMORE CITY

Case No.:

Case: 242-19305326 CV File EEV

RIF-New Case

Appear Fas

MLSC

\$40.00

TOTAL

\$55,00 \$2**05,**00

Serve on Resident Agent: Linda H. Jones, Esquire 218 N. Charles Street, Suite 400 Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Defendants

COMPLAINT

COUNT I

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, Ra'Shaun Ray, Mother and Next Friend of Gabrielle Shaw, Infant, by her attorneys, Jonathan Schochor, Kerry D. Staton, and Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A. and sues, Erika L. Nichelson, D.O., Teresa Hoffman, M.D. and Associates, LLC, St. Paul Place Specialists, Inc., and Mercy Medical Center, Inc., Defendants:

- 1. At all times of which the Plaintiff complains, the Defendant Erika L. Nichelson, D.O. (hereinafter referred to as "Nichelson") represented to the Plaintiff, the Infant Plaintiff, and the public that she possessed the degree of skill, knowledge and ability possessed by reasonably competent medical practitioners, practicing under the same or similar circumstances as those involving the Plaintiff and Infant Plaintiff.
- 2. The Plaintiff alleges that the Defendant Nichelson herein, including duly authorized agents and/or employees of the Defendant corporation, LLC, and Hospital, owed to the Plaintiff the duty to exercise the degree of care, skill and judgment expected of a competent medical practitioner acting in the same or similar circumstances, which duty included the performance of adequate and proper diagnostic tests and procedures to determine the nature and severity of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, careful diagnosis of such condition, employment of appropriate procedures, surgery and/or treatment to correct such conditions without injury upon the Infant Plaintiff, continuous evaluation of the Plaintiff's and Infant

Plaintiff's condition and the effects of such treatment, and adjustment of the course of treatment in response to such ongoing surveillance and evaluation -- all of which these Defendant failed to do.

- treatment, surgery, tests and/or procedures, failed to carefully and thoroughly evaluate the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, failed to properly and appropriately diagnose the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, failed to thoroughly evaluate the effects and results of any tests and/or procedures performed, failed to properly evaluate the effects of chosen treatment, failed to adjust the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's treatment in response to appropriate evaluation of the effects of treatment, failed to properly monitor the course of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition and treatment, failed to employ adequate and proper diagnostic procedures and/or tests to determine the nature and extent of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, and was otherwise negligent.
- 4. The Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants Teresa Hoffman, M.D. and Associates, LLC, and St. Paul Place Specialists, Inc., through their agents, servants and employees, owed to the Plaintiff and Infant Plaintiff a duty to exercise a degree of care, skill and judgment expected of a competent medical corporation acting in the same or similar circumstances, which duty included the performance of adequate and proper diagnostic tests and procedures to determine the nature and severity of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, careful diagnosis of such condition, employment of appropriate procedures, tests, surgery and/or treatment to correct such conditions without inflicting injury upon the Plaintiff and Infant Plaintiff, continuous evaluation of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition and effects of such treatment, and the

adjustment of the course of treatment in response to ongoing surveillance and evaluation -- all of which the Defendants failed to do.

- 5. The Defendants Teresa Hoffman, M.D. and Associates, LLC, and St. Paul Place Specialists, Inc., through their agents, servants and/or employees, were negligent in that they failed to employ appropriate treatment, surgery and/or procedures, failed to carefully and thoroughly evaluate the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, failed to thoroughly evaluate the effects and results of any tests, treatment and/or procedures performed, failed to adjust the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's treatment in response to appropriate evaluation of the effects of treatment, failed to properly monitor the course of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition and treatment, failed to employ adequate and proper diagnostic procedures and/or tests to determine the nature and extent of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, failed to diagnose the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition and were otherwise negligent.
- 6. The Plaintiff alleges that the Defendant Mercy Medical Center, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Hospital"), through its agents, servants and employees, owed to the Plaintiff and Infant Plaintiff a duty to exercise a degree of care, skill and judgment expected of a competent medical corporation acting in the same or similar circumstances, which duty included the performance of adequate and proper diagnostic tests and procedures to determine the nature and severity of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, careful diagnosis of such condition, employment of appropriate procedures, tests, surgery and/or treatment to correct such conditions without inflicting injury upon the Plaintiff and Infant Plaintiff, continuous evaluation of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition and effects of such treatment, and the adjustment of the course of treatment in response to ongoing surveillance and evaluation -- all of which the Defendant failed to do.

- 7. The Defendant Hospital, through its agents, servants and/or employees, was negligent in that it failed to employ appropriate treatment, surgery and/or procedures, failed to carefully and thoroughly evaluate the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, failed to thoroughly evaluate the effects and results of any tests, treatment and/or procedures performed, failed to adjust the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's treatment in response to appropriate evaluation of the effects of treatment, failed to properly monitor the course of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition and treatment, failed to employ adequate and proper diagnostic procedures and/or tests to determine the nature and extent of the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition, failed to diagnose the Plaintiff's and Infant Plaintiff's condition and was otherwise negligent.
- 8. At all times referred to herein, the Defendant Nichelson acted for herself and as a duly authorized agent and/or employee of the Defendant Teresa Hoffman, M.D. and Associates, LLC, and/or the Defendant St. Paul Place Specialists, Inc. and/or the Defendant Hospital, acting within the scope of her authority. Additionally, any and all other personnel caring for the Plaintiff and Infant Plaintiff acted as duly authorized agents and/or employees of these Defendants, acting within the scope of their respective authority.
- 9. As the direct and proximate result of the ongoing negligence of these Defendants and each of them, the Infant Plaintiff suffered unending physical pain, emotional anguish, fear, anxiety and permanent disability as is more fully described, hereinbelow.
- 10. On August 30, 2011, the Plaintiff, Ra'Shawn Ray, was admitted to the Defendant Hospital in labor. At all times referred to herein, she was under the care of the Defendant Nichelson who held herself out to be an expert in obstetrics and gynecology.

- 11. After progressing to full dilatation at approximately 7:12 a.m., the Plaintiff began pushing and at 7:43 a.m., a shoulder dystocia was encountered. Thereafter, the Infant Plaintiff was birthed at 7:45 a.m. Shortly after birth, it became obvious that the Infant Plaintiff had suffered an Erb's Palsy due to injury of the brachial plexus during the course of the delivery.
- Defendant Nichelson and/or any other hospital personnel caring for the Plaintiffs, to utilize appropriate maneuvers and avoid the utilization of excess traction and force to accomplish the delivery. It is asserted that the Defendants herein failed to utilize appropriate techniques in a proper fashion and utilized excessive force and traction during the course of the delivery resulting in severe injury to the brachial plexus as a result.
- 13. It is asserted that the Infant Plaintiff was unable to use her left arm, and was subsequently seen at a specialty hospital by a pediatric neurologist on September 9, 2011. The neurologist noted severe weakness in the left arm and diagnosed the Infant Plaintiff with an extensive brachial plexus palsy. He then recommended electromyogram (EMG) studies in addition to home exercises. An initial EMG performed later that day was limited, but demonstrated left upper and mid-brachial plexus damage and injury.
- 14. On October 7, 2011, the Infant Plaintiff returned for follow-up the pediatric neurologist. EMG studies were performed again which confirmed de-enervation and showed no voluntary motor units in the interests of the nanus, deltoid, biceps, triceps or extensor digitorum communis (EDC), the left first dorsal interesseous (FDI) had both abnormal spontaneous activity and reduced recruitment of voluntary motor unit activity.
- 15. Accordingly, surgery was recommended, and on April 6, 2012, the Infant Plaintiff was admitted to another specialty hospital under the care of a pediatric orthopedic surgeon to

surgically address her brachial plexus palsy (Erb's Palsy). When the Infant Plaintiff was taken to an operating room, the surgeon found an extensive neuroma involving the entire upper trunk and middle trunk as well as the branches off the upper trunk involving the brachial plexus nerve in addition to branches off the upper trunk involving the suprascapular nerve. The neuroma was resected and two cable grafts were placed.

- 16. It is asserted that the operative procedure proved, objectively, that there was an extremely serious and extensive injury to the brachial plexus nerve during the course of the Infant Plaintiff's delivery. It is alleged that the brachial plexus is the largest nerve in the body. It is further alleged that the type and severity of the injury was occasioned through the use of significantly excessive force and traction during the course of the delivery in continuing violation of the standards of care.
- 17. It is alleged that the Infant Plaintiff has in the past, is presently, and will in the future continue to suffer excruciating physical pain, emotional anguish, fear, anxiety, humiliation and embarrassment over her condition. Additionally, it is alleged that the Infant Plaintiff has in the past, is presently, and will in the future continue to incur ongoing surgical, medical, physiotherapeutic, pharmacological, nursing, custodial and other losses and expenses for which claim is made.
- 18. It is alleged that the severe and permanent injuries inflicted upon the Infant Plaintiff will prevent her from engaging in normal activities that other infants, toddlers, children and adults enjoy. She will be forced to progress through her life as a one-armed person in a two-armed world. She will be unable to engage in activities enjoyed by others, and will be severely limited in her ability to hold gainful employment.

- 19. Had these Defendants and each of them conformed with the applicable standards of care, and avoided the excess traction and force utilized during the course of delivery, it is alleged that the Infant Plaintiff would have been born in a normal fashion with the Erb's Palsy and all the attendant disability avoided.
- 20. The Plaintiff and Infant Plaintiff refer to the negligence of these Defendants and each of them as the sole and proximate cause all of the injuries, damages and permanent disability from which the Infant Plaintiff suffers with the Plaintiff and Infant Plaintiff being in no way contributorily negligent.
- 21. The negligence complained of occurred in Baltimore City. Venue is claimed in Baltimore City. The amount in controversy exceeds Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00).

Jonathan Schochor

Kerry D. Staton

Schochon Federica & Starton, PA

Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A.

The Paulton

1211 St. Paul Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

(410) 234-1000

jschochor@sfspa.com

kstaton@sfspa.com

COUNT II

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, Ra'Shaun Ray, by her attorneys, Jonathan Schochor, Kerry D. Staton, and Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A. and sues, Erika L. Nichelson, D.O., Teresa Hoffman, M.D. and Associates, LLC, St. Paul Place Specialists, Inc., and Mercy Medical Center, Inc., Defendants:

- 1. The Plaintiff incorporates in this Count those facts set forth in Count I hereinabove by reference thereto intending that each and every allegation hereinabove be deemed part hereof as if the same were repeated herein.
- 2. It is alleged that the Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and will in the future continue to incur hospital, surgical, medical, pharmacological, physiotherapeutic, nursing, custodial, and other losses and expenses for which claim is made.
- 3. The negligence complained of occurred in Baltimore City. Venue is claimed in Baltimore City. The amount in controversy exceeds Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00).

Jonathan Schochor

Kerry D. Staton

Schochor, Federico V Stochon, PA

Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A. 1211 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 234-1000
ischochor@sfspa.com
kstaton@sfspa.com

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Mother and Next Friend of

GABRIELLE SHAW, Infant, et al

Plaintiff

ERIKA L. NICHELSON, D.O., et al

Defendants

IN THE

CIRCUIT COURT

FOR

BALTIMORE CITY

Case No.:

ELECTION FOR JURY TRIAL

The Plaintiff in this case elects to try her case before a Jury.

Jonathan Schochor

Kerry D. Staton

Schochon, Federica & Starton, PA

Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A.

The Paulton

1211 St. Paul Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

(410) 234-1000

jschochor@sfspa.com

kstaton@sfspa.com

Mother and Next Friend of

GABRIELLE SHAW, Infant, et al

Plaintiff

BALTIMORE CITY

ERIKA L. NICHELSON, D.O., et al

Case No.:

IN THE

FOR

CIRCUIT COURT

Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF DISCOVERY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that Interrogatories, Request for Production of Documents, and Notice to Take Deposition will be served along with the Complaint, and that I will retain the original of this document in my possession, without alteration, until the case is concluded in this Court, the time for noting an appeal has expired, and any appeal noted has been decided.

Jonathan Schochor

Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A.

1211 St. Paul Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

(410) 234-1000

jschochor@sfspa.com

٧.

BEFORE THE

Mother and Next Friend of

GABRIELLE SHAW, Infant, et al

HEALTH CARE

Claimant

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE

RESOLUTION OFFICE

ERIKA L. NICHELSON, D.O., et al

HCA No.:

Defendants

ELECTION FOR WAIVER OF ARBITRATION

COMES NOW the Claimant, Ra'Shaun Ray, Individually and as Mother and Next Friend of Gabrielle Shaw, Infant, by her attorneys, Jonathan Schochor, Kerry D. Staton and Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A., and files this Election for Waiver of Arbitration pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, Section 3-2A-06B. For reasons in support thereof, the Claimant respectfully represents:

- 1. The Claimant has elected to waive arbitration in the above-captioned case to save time and expense associated herewith.
 - 2. That after filing, this election shall be binding on all parties.

Jonathan Schochor

Kerry D. Staton

Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A.

1211 St. Paul Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

(410) 234-1000

Attorneys for the Claimants

RA'SHAUN RAY, ET AL.

BEFORE THE

Claimants

HEALTH CARE

v.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE

ERIKA L. NICHELSON, D.O.,

RESOLUTION OFFICE

ET AL.

OF MARYLAND

Defendants

Case No.

CLAIMANTS' CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

I HEREBY CERTIFY and acknowledge that I have reviewed the hospital records, medical records, and other documentation pertaining to the facts and circumstances in the above-captioned case.

I hereby certify and acknowledge that there have been violations of the standards of care by Erika L. Nichelson, D.O., Teresa Hoffman, M.D. and Associates, LLC, St. Paul Place Specialists, Inc. and Mercy Medical Center, Inc. which have directly and proximately resulted in injuries and damages to the Minor Claimant.

I certify that I am a board-certified expert in obstetrics and gynecology. I further certify that I have had clinical experience, provided consultation relating to clinical practice and/or taught medicine in the Defendant's specialty or a related field of health-care, or in the field of health care in which the Defendant provided care or treatment to the Claimant, within five (5) years of the date of the alleged act or omission giving rise to the cause of action.

I acknowledge that less than 20% of my annual professional time directly involves testimony in personal injury claims. My report in the above-referenced case is attached hereto.

Righard Luciani, M.D.

Jonathan Schochor, Esquire Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A. The Paulton 1211 St. Paul Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Gabrielle Shaw, Minor

Dear Mr. Schochor:

This is to acknowledge that after a review of the medical records and other material involved in the above-referenced case, I have concluded that there have been violations of the standards of care by Erika L. Nichelson, D.O., Teresa Hoffman and Associates, LLC, St. Paul Place Specialists, Inc. and Mercy Medical Center, Inc. which have directly and proximately resulted in injuries and damages to the Minor Claimant.

It is my opinion that the Defendant Nichelson, acting for herself and as a duly authorized agent and/or employee of the Defendants Teresa Hoffman and Associates, LLC, St. Paul Place Specialists, Inc. and/or Mercy Medical Center, Inc. breached the standards of care by utilizing excessive traction during the delivery of Gabrielle resulting in a permanent left brachial plexus injury. It is my opinion that had all of these Defendants complied with the applicable standards of care that all of the injuries and damages, including the brachial plexus injury, sustained by Gabrielle Shaw would have been avoided. Additionally, I incorporate the Complaint filed in this case by reference.

I certify that I am a board-certified expert in obstetrics and gynecology. I further certify that I have had clinical experience, provided consultation relating to clinical practice and/or taught medicine in the Defendants' specialty or a related field of health-care, or in the field of health care in which the Defendants provided care or treatment to the Claimant, within five (5) years of the date of the alleged act or omission giving rise to the cause of action.

Accordingly, I have concluded that the case filed before the Health Care Alternative Dispute Resolution Office of Maryland is meritorious. I also acknowledge that less than twenty percent of my annual professional time involves testimony in personal injury claims.

This report represents a broad summary of my opinions for purposes of certifying the merit of this matter. I specifically reserve the right to modify, amend and/or supplement my opinions as further information about this case is made available to me through the discovery process.

Very truly yours,

Richard Luciani, M.D.

CC/DCM 002 (Rev. 2/2010)

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Product Liability	Other	\$50,000 - \$100,000	Property Damages
Professional Malpractice	CONTRACTS	X Over \$100,000	. \$
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Fraud	Landlord Tenant	\$10,000 - \$20,000	Injunction
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Page 1 of 3

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CI	RCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMO	ORE CITY (CHECK ONLY ONE)	
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CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY			
Expedited (Trial Date-90 days)	Attachment Before Judgment, Declaratory Judgment (Simple), Administrative Appeals, District Court Appeals and Jury Trial Prayers, Guardianship, Injunction, Mandamus.		
Standard (Trial Date-240 days)	Condemnation, Confessed Judgments (Vacated), Contract, Employment Related Cases, Fraud and Misrepresentation, International Tort, Motor Tort, Other Personal Injury, Workers' Compensation Cases.		
Extended Standard (Trial Date-345 days)	Asbestos, Lender Liability, Professional Malpractice, Serious Motor Tort or Personal Injury Cases (medical expenses and wage loss of \$100,000, expert and out-of-state witnesses (parties), and trial of five or more days), State Insolvency.		
Complex (Trial Date-450 days)	Class Actions, Designated Toxic Tort, Major Construction Contracts, Major Product Liabilities, Other Complex Cases.		