

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
LAW DIVISION**

**LAURA HOPPS, as Independent  
Administrator of the Estate of  
BRANDON HOPPS, deceased,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**DEREK BEATTY, D.O., OSF SAINT  
PAUL MEDICAL CENTER,  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS  
RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES,**

**Defendants.**

**DAVID HULSEY, D.O. and THOMAS  
P. CARMODY, M.D.,**

**Respondents in Discovery**

**CASE NO. 2025LA000012**

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY  
JURY OF 12**

**COMPLAINT AT LAW**

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased, by and through her attorneys, MEYERS & FLOWERS, LLC a/k/a MEYERS, FLOWERS, BRUNO, MCPHEDRAN & HERRMANN, LLC, and for her Complaint at Law against Defendants, DEREK BEATTY, D.O., OSF SAINT PAUL MEDICAL CENTER, and CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES, state and allege as follows:

**ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS**

1. At all times relevant, Plaintiff Laura Hopps and decedent Brandon Hopps were married and resided together in the city of LaMoille, county of Bureau, state of Illinois.
2. Laura has been appointed Independent Administrator of the Estate of Brandon Hopps pursuant to 740 ILCS 180/2.1. See Letters of Administration attached as Exhibit A.

3. At all relevant times, Defendant, OSF Saint Paul Medical Center (“OSF St. Paul”) was a hospital operating with its principal place of business at 1401 E 12th St, Mendota, IL 61342 in Lasalle County.
4. At all relevant times, Central Illinois Radiological Associates (“CIRA”) was a provider of radiological services operating with its principal place of business at 111 Oakwood Road, East Peoria IL 61611 in Tazewell County.
5. On April 27, 2023, at or around 8:30 AM, Brandon Hopps presented to OSF Saint Paul Mendota Emergency Room with complaints including chest pain, dizziness, lightheaded, blurred vision, and difficulty breathing with shortness of breath.
6. On April 27, 2023, Brandon was immediately seen by Dr. David C. Hulsey, D.O. Dr. Hulsey noted that Brandon had recently been diagnosed with hypertension.
7. Brandon reported that these symptoms began two days earlier, on April 25, 2023, and were significant enough that he felt unsafe to drive home from work. Brandon also reported that he began retching and vomiting beginning the previous night and had maintained a consisted heart rate above 100.
8. Dr. Hulsey performed an EKG which revealed that Brandon was tachycardic.
9. Dr. Hulsey ordered blood tests, including a test for d-dimer levels, which revealed that Brandon’s d-dimer level was elevated at 0.93 mcg/mL.
10. After Dr. Hulsey discovered that Brandon had an elevated d-dimer level, he ordered CTA (“Computed Tomography Angiography”) imaging of Brandon’s chest.
11. On April 27, 2023, at or around 10:10 AM, Brandon underwent CTA imaging of his chest.
12. On April 27, 2023, at or around 10:43 AM, Dr. Derek Beatty, D.O., a licensed radiologist, analyzed the CTA and provided his findings and impressions including:

- a. “No central filling defect in the main, lobar, or segmental pulmonary arteries. Normal pulmonary trunk caliber. Normal aortic diameter. Normal aortic arch branching anatomy.”
  - b. “Heart: Normal size. No pericardial effusion.”
  - c. “Chest wall and axilla: No abnormality.”
  - d. “Impression: 1. No pulmonary embolism 2. Polycystic kidney/liver disease”
13. Despite CTA imaging of Brandon’s chest showing clear signs of an aortic dissection, Dr. Beatty failed to identify Brandon’s aortic dissection.
  14. On April 27, 2023, at or around 2:10 PM, Brandon was diagnosed with acute pericarditis. Dr. Carmody treated Brandon with IV Toradol and discharged him home with instructions to take over-the-counter painkillers for the pain and follow up with his primary care provider for re-examination and outpatient echocardiogram with Doppler.
  15. On May 1, 2023, at or around 2:00 PM, Laura Hopps, Brandon’s wife, found him unresponsive in bed after trying to wake him up.
  16. On May 1, 2023, at or around 2:31 PM, Brandon arrived via EMS to St. Margarets Health – Spring Valley Emergency Department.
  17. On May 1, 2023, at or around 3:05 PM, despite efforts to revive him, Brandon was declared dead with the probable cause of death being pericardial effusion.
  18. The Coroner of Bureau County Autopsy Report dated July 6, 2023, found that Brandon’s death was caused by cardiac tamponade and a ruptured aortic dissection.

**COUNT I – WRONGFUL DEATH (MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE)**

***Laura Hopps, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of Brandon Hopps, deceased, v. Derek Beatty, D.O.***

19. Plaintiff hereby repeats and re-alleges the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

20. At all relevant times, in providing care and treatment to Brandon Hopps, Dr. Beatty had a duty to possess and apply the knowledge and to use the skill and care ordinarily used by reasonably careful radiologist and to be free from negligence.
21. That in breach of the aforesaid duty, Dr. Beatty negligently provided medical care and treatment to Brandon and did not exercise the degree of skill and care that a reasonably careful physician would exercise under similar circumstances, in that Dr. Beatty negligently failed to identify Brandon's aortic dissection, to wit:
  - a. Failed to properly identify that computed tomography angiography ("CTA") of Brandon Hopps' chest showed clear indications that he had suffered an aortic dissection.
22. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligent acts and/or omissions of Dr. Beatty, Brandon was misdiagnosed with acute pericarditis, discharged home and not treated for his aortic dissection, causing him to suffer a ruptured aortic dissection, and ultimately leading to his death.
23. Brandon was survived by his wife, Laura Hopps.
24. Laura, as Independent Administrator of Brandon's estate, now brings this action pursuant to the Wrongful Death Statute of Illinois, 740 ILCS 180/2.1.
25. Attached hereto and made apart hereof in conformance with 735 ILCS 5/2-622 are both an Affidavit of Counsel (Exhibit B) and a written report from a healthcare professional (Exhibit C).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased, respectfully request this Court to enter a judgment against Defendant DEREK BEATTY, D.O. for an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), plus costs of suit and pre-judgment interest, and for such other and further relief as

this Court deems equitable and just.

**COUNT II – WRONGFUL DEATH (RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR)**

***Laura Hopps, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of Brandon Hopps, deceased, v.  
OSF Saint Paul Medical Center***

26. Plaintiff hereby repeats and re-alleges the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
27. At all relevant times, Dr. Beatty was an agent, servant, and/or employee of OSF St. Paul.
28. At all relevant times, in providing care and treatment to Brandon Hopps, it was the duty of OSF St. Paul, by and through its agents, servants, and employees, including but not limited to Dr. Beatty, to possess and apply the knowledge and to use the skill and care ordinarily used by reasonably careful physicians in their respective fields and to be free from negligence.
29. That in breach of the aforesaid duty, OSF St. Paul, by and through its agents, servants, and employees, including but not limited to Dr. Beatty, negligently provided medical care and treatment to Brandon and did not exercise the degree of skill and care that a reasonably careful physician would exercise under similar circumstances, in that Dr. Beatty negligently failed to identify Brandon’s aortic dissection, to wit:
  - a. Failed to properly identify that computed tomography angiography (“CTA”) of Brandon Hopps’ chest showed clear indications that he had suffered an aortic dissection.
30. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligent acts and/or omissions of OSF St. Paul, by and through its agents, servants, and employees, including but not limited to Dr. Beatty, Brandon was misdiagnosed with acute pericarditis, discharged home and not treated for his aortic dissection, causing him to suffer a ruptured aortic dissection, and ultimately leading to his death.
31. Brandon was survived by his wife, Laura Hopps.

32. Laura, as Independent Administrator of Brandon's estate, now brings this action pursuant to the Wrongful Death Statute of Illinois, 740 ILCS 180/2.1.
33. Attached hereto and made apart hereof in conformance with 735 ILCS 5/2-622 are both an Affidavit of Counsel (Exhibit B) and a written report from a healthcare professional (Exhibit C).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased, respectfully request this Court to enter a judgment against Defendant OSF Saint Paul Medical Center for an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), plus costs of suit and pre-judgment interest, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems equitable and just.

**COUNT III – WRONGFUL DEATH (RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR)**

*Laura Hopps, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of Brandon Hopps, deceased, v.  
Central Illinois Radiological Associates*

34. Plaintiff hereby repeats and re-alleges the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
35. At all relevant times, Dr. Beatty was an agent, servant, and/or employee of CIRA.
36. At all relevant times, in providing care and treatment to Brandon Hopps, it was the duty of CIRA, by and through its agents, servants, and employees, including but not limited to Dr. Beatty, to possess and apply the knowledge and to use the skill and care ordinarily used by reasonably careful physicians in their respective fields and to be free from negligence.
37. That in breach of the aforesaid duty, CIRA, by and through its agents, servants, and employees, including but not limited to Dr. Beatty, negligently provided medical care and treatment to Brandon and did not exercise the degree of skill and care that a reasonably careful physician would exercise under similar circumstances, in that Dr. Beatty negligently failed to identify Brandon's aortic dissection, to wit:

- a. Failed to properly identify that computed tomography angiography (“CTA”) of Brandon Hopps’ chest showed clear indications that he had suffered an aortic dissection.
38. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligent acts and/or omissions of CIRA, by and through its agents, servants, and employees, including but not limited to Dr. Beatty, Brandon was misdiagnosed with acute pericarditis, discharged home and not treated for his aortic dissection, causing him to suffer a ruptured aortic dissection, and ultimately leading to his death.
39. Brandon was survived by his wife, Laura Hopps.
40. Laura, as Independent Administrator of Brandon’s estate, now brings this action pursuant to the Wrongful Death Statute of Illinois, 740 ILCS 180/2.1.
41. Attached hereto and made apart hereof in conformance with 735 ILCS 5/2-622 are both an Affidavit of Counsel (Exhibit B) and a written report from a healthcare professional (Exhibit C).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased, respectfully request this Court to enter a judgment against Defendant CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES for an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), plus costs of suit and pre-judgment interest, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems equitable and just.

**DESIGNATION AS RESPONDENT IN DISCOVERY**

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased, by and through her attorneys, and for her Designation as Respondent in Discovery, states as follows:

42. The Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased, files the above cause of action against Defendants, DEREK BEATTY, D.O., OSF SAINT PAUL MEDICAL CENTER, CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES, stemming from medical negligence that took place while BRANDON HOPPS received care at OSF St. Paul on April 27, 2023.
43. Plaintiff hereby repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth in the above Complaint at Law as though fully set forth herein.
44. It is believed by the Plaintiff that DAVID HULSEY, D.O. and THOMAS P. CARMODY, M.D. have information essential to the determination of who should properly be named as additional defendants in this action and as such hereby designates DAVID HULSEY, D.O. and THOMAS P. CARMODY, M.D. as Respondents in Discovery in Accordance with 735 ILCS 5/2-402.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased, requests that DAVID HULSEY, D.O. and THOMAS P. CARMODY, M.D. be designated as Respondents in Discovery in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/2-402.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs herein demand a trial by jury.

Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased,

MEYERS & FLOWERS, LLC



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Craig D. Brown, Attorney for Plaintiff



Craig D. Brown, Esq. (#6210554)  
James A. McPhedran, Esq. (#1868977)  
Nicholas I. Flowers, Esq. (#6345661)  
MEYERS & FLOWERS, LLC a/k/a MEYERS, FLOWERS, BRUNO, MCPHEDRAN &  
HERRMANN, LLC  
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(815) 223-0233 (fax)

**CIRCUIT CLERK OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BUREAU COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**ESTATE OF  
BRANDON L. HOPPS**

}  
}  
}

**2023-PR-65**

**CIRCUIT COURT BUREAU COUNTY  
FILED**

**SEP 15 2023**

*Dawn M. Reglin*

**CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

**LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

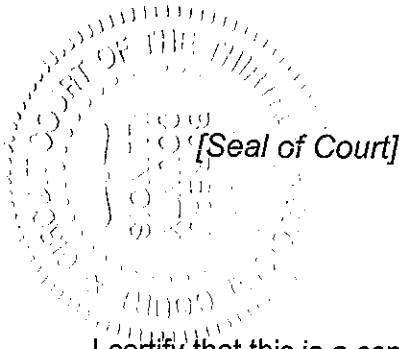
The above court has appointed **LAURA K. HOPPS** Independent Administrator of the Estate **BRANDON L. HOPPS** deceased, who died on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2023, and as such representative is authorized to sue for and collect the personal estate of and debts due the decedent, and to perform all duties imposed on the representative so far as there is property, and as charged by law and to do all other acts now or hereafter required by law of said representative.

September 15, 2023

*Dawn M. Reglin* *LR*

Dawn M. Reglin

Clerk of Court

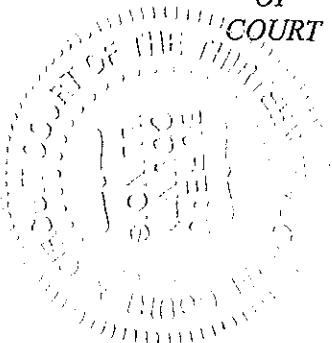


[Seal of Court]

**CERTIFICATE**

I certify that this is a copy of the letters of office now in force in this case.

**SEAL  
OF  
COURT**



*September 18, 2023*  
*Dawn M. Reglin* *LR*  
Clerk of Court

**EXHIBIT A**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BUREAU COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN PROBATE

CIRCUIT COURT BUREAU COUNTY  
FILED

ESTATE OF )  
BRANDON L. HOPPS, Deceased ) 2023PR65

SEP 15 2023

*Dawn M. Reglin*  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

ORDER APPOINTING LEGAL  
REPRESENTATIVE OF DECEDENT'S ESTATE

On the verified petition of Laura K. Hopps for issuance of letters as legal representative to Laura Hopps who has presented her bond which has been approved.

IT IS ORDERED, that independent administration is granted.

IT IS ORDERED, that letters as Independent Representative under Article XXVIII of the Probate Act shall issue to Laura K. Hopps.

DATED: 9-15, 2023.

ENTER: *Jamie A. Radwan*  
Judge

Case Set for Status Hearing on SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 AT 8:30 AM

Michael L. English  
ARDC #3126742  
RUSSELL, ENGLISH,  
SCOMA & BENEKE, P.C.  
Ten Park Avenue West  
Princeton, IL 61356  
815-875-4555  
Email: menglish@resblaw.com

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
LAW DIVISION**

<b>LAURA HOPPS, as Independent</b>	)	
<b>Administrator of the Estate of</b>	)	
<b>BRANDON HOPPS, deceased,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	)	<b>CASE NO.</b>
	)	
<b>v.</b>	)	
	)	
<b>DEREK BEATTY, D.O., OSF SAINT</b>	)	
<b>PAUL MEDICAL CENTER,</b>	)	
<b>CENTRAL ILLINOIS</b>	)	
<b>RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Defendants.</b>	)	
<hr/>		
	)	
<b>DAVID HULSEY, DO and THOMAS P.</b>	)	
<b>CARMODY, M.D.,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent in Discovery</b>	)	

**AFFIDAVIT OF COUNSEL**

Craig D. Brown, being first duly sworn under oath, deposes and states as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law licensed to practice in the State of Illinois with the law firm of MEYERS & FLOWERS, LLC, attorneys of record for Plaintiff, LAURA HOPPS, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of BRANDON HOPPS, deceased.
2. I have consulted and reviewed the facts of this case with a healthcare professional with whom I reasonably believe is knowledgeable in the relevant issues involved in the particular action and who practices in all areas of medicine with specialization in Interventional Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology.
3. The reviewing healthcare professional has determined in a written report, after review of medical records and other relevant materials, that there is a reasonable and meritorious cause for the filing of this action against DEREK BEATTY, D.O., OSF SAINT PAUL MEDICAL CENTER, CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES.
4. I have concluded on the basis of review of the healthcare professional's report and consultation, that there is a reasonable and meritorious cause for the filing of this action against DEREK BEATTY, D.O., OSF SAINT PAUL MEDICAL CENTER, CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES.

5. A copy of the written report of the aforementioned healthcare professional is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit C.

*Craig Brown*

Craig D. Brown, Esq.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

*Alisha M. Murphy*  
Notary Public



Craig D. Brown, Esq. (#6210554)  
James A. McPhedran, Esq. (#1868977)  
Nicholas I. Flowers, Esq. (#6345661)  
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HERRMANN, LLC  
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(815) 223-0233 (fax)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
LAW DIVISION**

<b>LAURA HOPPS, as Independent</b>	)	
<b>Administrator of the Estate of</b>	)	
<b>BRANDON HOPPS, deceased,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	)	<b>CASE NO.</b>
	)	
<b>v.</b>	)	
	)	
<b>DEREK BEATTY, D.O., OSF SAINT</b>	)	
<b>PAUL MEDICAL CENTER,</b>	)	
<b>CENTRAL ILLINOIS</b>	)	
<b>RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Defendants.</b>	)	
<hr style="width: 40%; margin-left: 0;"/>		
<b>DAVID HULSEY, D.O. and</b>	)	
<b>THOMAS P. CARMODY, M.D.,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Respondents in Discovery</b>	)	

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

1. I am a physician duly licensed to practice medicine, and I currently specialize in Interventional Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology.
2. I am knowledgeable in the relevant issues involved in this particular case.
3. I currently practice, and have practiced within the last six years, in the same area of healthcare medicine that is at issue in this particular action.
4. I have reviewed the records concerning medical treatment provided to Brandon Hopps which includes records from St. Margaret’s Health Spring Valley, OSF Saint Paul Medical Center and Coroner of Bureau County, Illinois Autopsy Report.

**DEREK BEATTY, D.O.**

5. Based upon my knowledge, training, education, experience and detailed review of the aforementioned medical records, it is my opinion that a reasonable and meritorious cause

exists for filing this action against DEREK BEATTY, D.O. The reasons for this opinion include, but are not limited to:

- a. Failed to properly identify that computed tomography angiography (“CTA”) of Brandon Hopps’ chest showed clear indications that he had suffered an aortic dissection.

6. The information available to me at this time indicates DEREK BEATTY, D.O., violated the standard of care for the reasons stated above and that a reasonable and meritorious claim of medical negligence against him exists.

OSF SAINT PAUL MEDICAL CENTER

7. Based upon my knowledge, training, education, experience and detailed review of the aforementioned medical records, it is my opinion that a reasonable and meritorious cause exists for filing this action against OSF SAINT PAUL MEDICAL CENTER by and through its employee, agent, and/or servant, DEREK BEATTY, DO. The reasons for this opinion include, but are not limited to:

- a. Failed to properly identify that computed tomography angiography (“CTA”) of Brandon Hopps’ chest showed clear indications that he had suffered an aortic dissection.

8. The information available to me at this time indicates OSF SAINT PAUL MEDICAL CENTER by and through its employee, agent, and/or servant, DEREK BEATTY, D.O., violated the standard of care for the reasons stated above and that a reasonable and meritorious claim of medical negligence against it exists.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES

9. Based upon my knowledge, training, education, experience and detailed review of the aforementioned medical records, it is my opinion that a reasonable and meritorious cause

exists for filing this action against CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES by and through its employee, agent, and/or servant, DEREK BEATTY, DO. The reasons for this opinion include, but are not limited to:

- a. Failed to properly identify that computed tomography angiography (“CTA”) of Brandon Hopps’ chest showed clear indications that he had suffered an aortic dissection.

10. The information available to me at this time indicates CENTRAL ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES by and through its employee, agent, and/or servant, DEREK BEATTY, D.O., violated the standard of care for the reasons stated above and that a reasonable and meritorious claim of medical negligence against it exists.

