



Fatal MedMal case settles for \$500K after jury verdict

■ PHILLIP BANTZ

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A jury in Marion County hit a Sumter family physician accused of malpractice with a \$675,000 verdict in late August, spurring his practice to subsequently pay \$500,000 to settle the case.

The family of the late Ruby Britt accused Dr. John Odom and his practice, McLeod Physician Associates, of failing to treat her for heart disease, which resulted in a heart attack that he also allegedly failed to diagnose.

Britt was 77 when she died of complications from the heart attack, according to an attorney for her family, William Tuck of Darlington.

An attempt to speak with Odom's attorney, Boone Aiken 3rd of Florence, was unsuccessful.

The jury determined that Odom's negligence contributed to Britt's

death, but declined to find that he was grossly negligent. The jury's finding on negligence meant that its verdict was against McLeod Physician Associates, a nonprofit organization, but not Odom individually, according to Tuck.

He said Aiken asserted that Odom provided proper medical care to Britt and contended that she had a heart attack after he saw her. The case was complicated by the fact that Britt was diabetic and diabetics are likely to have atypical symptoms associated with a heart attack, such as a lack of chest pain.

Following the verdict, Britt's family agreed to settle for \$500,000 to avoid dealing with McLeod's post-trial motions. The practice has paid the settlement.

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SETTLEMENT REPORT

WRONGFUL DEATH

Amount: \$675,000, settled post-verdict for \$500,000

Case name: Donna Cross, as personal representative of the estate of Ruby Britt v. Dr. John Odom and McLeod Physician Associates

Court: Marion County Circuit Court

Case No. 13-CP-33-009

Judge: Michael Nettles

Date of verdict: Aug. 28

Attorneys for plaintiff: William Tuck of Darlington

Attorneys for defendants: Boone Aiken 3rd of Aiken Bridges in Florence