

◇ RETURN DATE: JUNE 5, 2018 : SUPERIOR COURT
MARRISSA HACKETT : J.D. OF NEW HAVEN
VS. : AT NEW HAVEN
PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND, INC. and
STEPHANIE MALIA, APRN : DATE: MAY 8, 2018

COMPLAINT

**COUNT ONE: (MARRISSA HACKETT AS TO DEFENDANT STEPHANIE MALIA, APRN,
FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE RESULTING IN WRONGFUL BIRTH):**

1. On or about February 21, 2018, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 52-190a (b), the Clerk of the Judicial District of New Haven at New Haven granted Plaintiff's Application for an Extension of the Applicable Statute of Limitations (See attached).
2. At all times relevant herein, the Defendant, Stephanie Malia was an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse ("APRN"), who was certified to practice Obstetrics and Gynecology in the State of Connecticut and was an employee, agent, servant and/or assign of Defendant Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc. located in New Haven, Connecticut.
3. At all times relevant herein, the Defendant, Planned Parenthood of Southern

◇ New England, Inc. (“Planned Parenthood”) was located in New Haven, Connecticut and provided the public with reproductive and sexual health care services. The mission of Planned Parenthood is to protect the fundamental right of all individuals to manage their own fertility and sexual health, and to ensure access to services, education and information to realize that right.

4. On June 4, 2015, Marrissa Hackett (“Marrissa”) was seen at Planned Parenthood by Stephanie Malia, APRN (“Defendant Malia”), for Counseling and Education regarding contraception. At that time, Marrissa was “unsure of [her] reproductive life plan.”

5. On June 18, 2015, Marrissa returned to Planned Parenthood and Defendant Malia inserted an intrauterine contraceptive device (hereinafter referred to as “IUC” or “IUD”), known as Liletta, to prevent pregnancy. This IUD is a small, flexible, plastic, T-shaped device that, when inserted into the uterus, slowly releases a progestin hormone called levonorgestrel and is known to be greater than 99% effective in preventing pregnancy for up to 4 years. Two thin threads are attached to the lower end of the device and the patient is instructed to routinely check that the threads are in place.

6. Post-insertion of the Liletta device, Marrissa was aware that bleeding and spotting could increase in the first 3 to 6 months and could remain irregular and that periods over time usually become shorter, lighter or might stop. Marrissa was advised that

◇ the recommended Liletta removal date was June 18, 2018 and that she could return earlier on an as needed basis.

7. On March 7, 2016, Marrison was seen at Planned Parenthood by Defendant Malia for an IUD check. Medical records from this visit document that the patient is “happy with IUD, no menses, occasional spotting.” Defendant Malia charted that she performed an examination of the female genitalia. Her notes of this examination included: “Cervix: no discharge per os or cervical motion tenderness and normal appearance and IUC string per os. Uterus: normal size and shape and mobile, non-tender, and no uterine prolapse” and “reassurance offered that IUD strings are correctly located and appropriate length.” Marrison was advised to “Return to Office as needed.”

8. On June 27, 2016, Marrison was seen at Planned Parenthood by Defendant Malia because she had been feeling sick and nauseous for a few months. Marrison reported that she did a home pregnancy test which yielded a positive result. Defendant Malia documented that she performed an examination of the female genitalia. Her notes of this examination included: “Uterus: mobile, non-tender, normal shape, no uterine prolapse, and enlarged (20 wk size).” An office pregnancy test rendered a positive result. An office ultrasound was performed and interpreted by Defendant Malia as “indeterminate for

pregnancy location”, and questionable molar pregnancy¹. Marrison was sent to Hammers Imaging for a STAT ultrasound. The result was a “viable pregnancy of 31 weeks 3 days.” The estimated date of delivery was August 26, 2016 and no definite IUD was identified.

9. Thereafter, Marrison had a little over 2 months to adjust to the idea that she was about to become a mother. She had little or no prenatal care and worried about the condition of her future child. Prior to that time, Marrison was an unmarried, college student with no plans to start a family.

10. On September 13, 2016, Marrison gave birth to a son, named Anthony James Hackett-Flanders. His birth weight was 7 pounds and 2 ounces.

11. Defendant, Stephanie Malia, APRN, deviated from applicable standards of care in one or more of the following ways:

a. she failed to perform a full, thorough, internal examination of Marrison at the March 7, 2016 appointment and had she done so she would have determined that Marrison was approximately 14 weeks pregnant at that time;

b. she failed to administer a pregnancy test of Marrison at the March 7, 2016 appointment to rule out a potential pregnancy;

¹ A molar pregnancy is a noncancerous tumor that develops in the uterus as a result of a nonviable pregnancy.

◇ c. she failed to perform and/or arrange for testing, and in particular, an ultrasound, of Marrison at the March 7, 2016 appointment, to confirm the placement of an IUD and/or the diagnosis of pregnancy;

d. she failed to diagnose Marrison's pregnancy at the March 7, 2016 appointment;

e. she failed to discuss with Marrison the options available to her regarding the pregnancy; e.g., termination of the pregnancy versus continuing the pregnancy to term; and

f. she failed to provide and/or arrange for prenatal care and follow-up for Marrison.

12. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrison Hackett lost her chance to consider a decision regarding termination of the pregnancy and, in fact, lost her chance to undergo a safe abortion.

13. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrison Hackett, a young, unmarried college student, suffered emotional distress related to an unplanned and undesired pregnancy.

14. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrison Hackett discontinued her college studies and her part-time employment to await and prepare for the unexpected birth of her child.

15. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett must incur the extraordinary expense of the required care of Anthony James Hackett-Flanders until he reaches the age of majority.

16. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett suffered and will continue to suffer an impaired earning capacity and loss of earning capacity related to the unanticipated and unplanned birth of a child.

17. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett incurred and will incur unexpected and unplanned costs for hospital, medical and surgical bills and unplanned and unexpected costs and expenses in raising and bringing up a child, whose birth was unplanned and undesired, all of which, because of the financial condition of the Plaintiff and the fact that she is not in a committed relationship, will impose a great burden on her.

18. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett suffered an impairment of her ability to enjoy life's activities, a modification of her lifestyle, and she lost the right to start a family when the time and circumstances were right for her.

19. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Plaintiff Marrisona Hackett was prevented from obtaining prenatal care and treatment, all of which has

◇ caused and may continue to cause her son, Anthony James Hackett-Flanders, developmental delays and delayed achievement of growth and development milestones.

COUNT TWO: (MARRISSA HACKETT AS TO DEFENDANT PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NEW ENGLAND, INC. FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE RESULTING IN WRONGFUL BIRTH):

1-10. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of COUNT ONE are hereby incorporated and made Paragraphs 1 through 10 of COUNT TWO as if more fully set forth herein.

11. The Defendant, Planned Parenthood, deviated from applicable standards of care in one or more of the following ways:

a. it failed to perform a full, thorough, internal examination of Marrisona at the March 7, 2016 appointment and had it done so it would have determined that Marrisona was approximately 14 weeks pregnant at that time;

b. it failed to administer a pregnancy test of Marrisona at the March 7, 2016 appointment to rule out a potential pregnancy;

c. it failed to perform and/or arrange for testing, and in particular, an ultrasound, of Marrisona at the March 7, 2016 appointment, to confirm the placement of an IUD and/or the diagnosis of pregnancy;

d. it failed to diagnose Marrisona's pregnancy at the March 7, 2016 appointment;

◇ e. it failed to discuss with Marrisona the options available to her regarding the pregnancy; e.g., termination of the pregnancy versus continuing the pregnancy to term; and

f. it failed to provide and/or arrange for prenatal care and follow-up for Marrisona.

12. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett lost her chance to consider a decision regarding termination of the pregnancy and, in fact, lost her chance to undergo a safe abortion.

13. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett, a young, unmarried college student, suffered emotional distress related to an unplanned and undesired pregnancy.

14. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett discontinued her college studies and her part-time employment to await and prepare for the unexpected birth of her child.

15. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett must incur the extraordinary expense of the required care of Anthony James Hackett-Flanders until he reaches the age of majority.

◇ 16. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett suffered and will continue to suffer an impaired earning capacity and loss of earning capacity related to the unanticipated and unplanned birth of a child.

17. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett incurred and will incur unexpected and unplanned costs for hospital, medical and surgical bills and unplanned and unexpected costs and expenses in raising and bringing up a child, whose birth was unplanned and undesired, all of which, because of the financial condition of the Plaintiff and the fact that she is not in a committed relationship, will impose a great burden on her.

18. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett suffered an impairment of her ability to enjoy life's activities, a modification of her lifestyle, and she lost the right to start a family when the time and circumstances were right for her.

19. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Plaintiff Marrisona Hackett was prevented from obtaining prenatal care and treatment, all of which has caused and may continue to cause her son, Anthony James Hackett-Flanders, developmental delays and delayed achievement of growth and development milestones.

◇ **COUNT THREE: (MARRISSA HACKETT AS TO DEFENDANT STEPHANIE MALIA, APRN, FOR NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS):**

1-10. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of COUNT ONE are hereby incorporated by reference and made Paragraphs 1 through 10 of COUNT THREE as if more fully set forth herein.

11. Defendant Malia owed Marrassa Hackett a continuing duty to provide her with accurate information regarding her true condition and available options, including being deprived of the opportunity to choose to terminate the pregnancy.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Malia negligently failed to perform a full and thorough internal examination of Marrassa Hackett at the March 7, 2016 appointment and had she done so she would have determined that Marrassa was approximately 14 weeks pregnant at that time.

13. Upon information and belief, Defendant Malia negligently failed to administer a pregnancy test of Marrassa Hackett at the March 7, 2016 appointment to rule out a potential pregnancy.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant Malia negligently failed to perform and/or arrange for testing, in particular, an ultrasound of Marrassa Hackett to confirm the placement of an IUD and/or the diagnosis of pregnancy at the March 7, 2016 appointment.

◇ 15. Upon information and belief, Defendant Malia negligently failed to diagnose Marrisona Hackett's pregnancy at the March 7, 2016 appointment.

16. Upon information and belief, Defendant Malia negligently failed to discuss with Marrisona Hackett the options available to her regarding the pregnancy, such as termination of the pregnancy versus continuing the pregnancy to term.

17. Upon information and belief, Defendant Malia negligently failed to provide, arrange and/or offer prenatal testing, care, counseling, advice, or treatment.

18. Upon information and belief, Defendant Malia negligently failed to advise Marrisona Hackett that she was pregnant.

19. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Malia's medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett became nervous and upset upon learning that she was pregnant, was forced to carry to term an unplanned and undesired pregnancy and suffered the pain and trauma of the birth of a child, consequent damage to herself, pain and anxiety and nervousness over her pregnancy and childbirth.

20. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Malia's medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett, a young, unmarried, college student sustained severe physical and psychological

◇ injuries, including emotional distress, pain and suffering, and a diminution of her ability to enjoy life related to the unplanned and undesired pregnancy.

21. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett discontinued her college studies and her part-time employment to await and prepare for the unexpected birth of her child.

22. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett must incur the extraordinary expense of the required care of Anthony James Hackett-Flanders until he reaches the age of majority.

23. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett suffered an impaired earning capacity and loss of earning capacity related to the unanticipated and unplanned birth of a child.

24. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett incurred and will incur unexpected and unplanned costs for hospital, medical and surgical bills and unplanned and unexpected costs and expenses in raising and bringing up a child, whose birth was unplanned and undesired, all of which, because of the financial condition of the Plaintiff and the fact that she is not in a committed relationship, will impose a great burden on her.

◇ 25. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett suffered an impairment of her ability to enjoy life's activities, a modification of her lifestyle, and she lost the right to start a family when the time and circumstances were right for her.

26. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Plaintiff Marrisona Hackett was prevented from obtaining prenatal care and treatment, all of which has caused and may continue to cause her son, Anthony James Hackett-Flanders, developmental delays and delayed achievement of growth and development milestones.

27. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, it is foreseeable that Marrisona Hackett might experience emotional distress from bearing and raising a child that is unplanned and unexpected.

28. The emotional distress experienced by Marrisona Hackett is reasonable in light of the Defendant's conduct as hereinbefore alleged.

COUNT FOUR: (MARRISSA HACKETT AS TO DEFENDANT PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NEW ENGLAND, INC. FOR NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS):

1-10. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of COUNT TWO are hereby incorporated by reference and made Paragraphs 1 through 10 of COUNT FOUR as if more fully set forth herein.

11. Defendant Planned Parenthood owed Marrisona Hackett a continuing duty to provide her with accurate information regarding her true condition and available options, including being deprived of the opportunity to choose to terminate the pregnancy.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Planned Parenthood negligently failed to perform a full and thorough internal examination of Marrisona Hackett at the March 7, 2016 appointment and had it done so it would have determined that Marrisona was approximately 14 weeks pregnant at that time.

13. Upon information and belief, Defendant Planned Parenthood negligently failed to administer a pregnancy test of Marrisona Hackett at the March 7, 2016 appointment to rule out a potential pregnancy.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant Planned Parenthood negligently failed to perform and/or arrange for testing, in particular, an ultrasound of Marrisona Hackett to confirm the placement of an IUD and/or the diagnosis of pregnancy at the March 7, 2016 appointment.

◇ 15. Upon information and belief, Defendant Planned Parenthood negligently failed to diagnose Marrisona Hackett's pregnancy at the March 7, 2016 appointment.

16. Upon information and belief, Defendant Planned Parenthood negligently failed to discuss with Marrisona Hackett the options available to her regarding the pregnancy, such as termination of the pregnancy versus continuing the pregnancy to term.

17. Upon information and belief, Defendant Planned Parenthood negligently failed to provide, arrange and/or offer prenatal testing, care, counseling, advice, or treatment.

18. Upon information and belief, Defendant Planned Parenthood negligently failed to advise Marrisona Hackett that she was pregnant.

19. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Planned Parenthood's medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett became nervous and upset upon learning that she was pregnant, was forced to carry to term an unplanned and undesired pregnancy and suffered the pain and trauma of the birth of a child, consequent damage to herself, pain and anxiety and nervousness over her pregnancy and childbirth.

20. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Planned Parenthood's medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett, a young, unmarried, college student sustained severe physical and

◇ psychological injuries, including emotional distress, pain and suffering, and a diminution of her ability to enjoy life related to the unplanned and undesired pregnancy.

21. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett discontinued her college studies and her part-time employment to await and prepare for the unexpected birth of her child.

22. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett must incur the extraordinary expense of the required care of Anthony James Hackett-Flanders until he reaches the age of majority.

23. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett suffered an impaired earning capacity and loss of earning capacity related to the unanticipated and unplanned birth of a child.

24. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett incurred and will incur unexpected and unplanned costs for hospital, medical and surgical bills and unplanned and unexpected costs and expenses in raising and bringing up a child, whose birth was unplanned and undesired, all of which, because of the financial condition of the Plaintiff and the fact that she is not in a committed relationship, will impose a great burden on her.

◇ 25. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Marrisona Hackett suffered an impairment of her ability to enjoy life's activities, a modification of her lifestyle, and she lost the right to start a family when the time and circumstances were right for her.

26. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned medical negligence, Plaintiff Marrisona Hackett was prevented from obtaining prenatal care and treatment, all of which has caused and may continue to cause her son, Anthony James Hackett-Flanders, developmental delays and delayed achievement of growth and development milestones.

27. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, it is foreseeable that Marrisona Hackett might experience emotional distress from bearing and raising a child that is unplanned and unexpected.

28. The emotional distress experienced by Marrisona Hackett is reasonable in light of the Defendant's conduct as hereinbefore alleged.

◇ WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff claims:

1. Compensatory damages; and
2. Such other and further relief as law and equity may provide.

THE PLAINTIFF,

BY: 

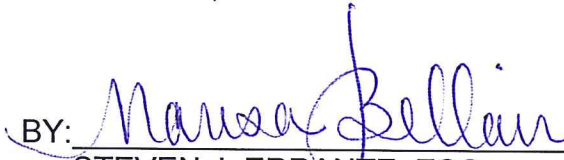
STEVEN J. ERRANTE, ESQ.
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52 Trumbull Street
New Haven, CT 06510
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◇ RETURN DATE: JUNE 5, 2018 : SUPERIOR COURT
MARRISSA HACKETT : J.D. OF NEW HAVEN
VS. : AT NEW HAVEN
PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND, INC. and
STEPHANIE MALIA, APRN : DATE: MAY 8, 2018

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT IN DEMAND

The Plaintiff claims compensatory damages in excess of the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), exclusive of interest and costs.

THE PLAINTIFF,

BY: 

STEVEN J. ERRANTE, ESQ.
MARISA A. BELLAIR, ESQ.
Lynch, Traub, Keefe, & Errante, P.C.
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STEPHANIE MALIA, APRN : DATE: MAY 8, 2018

CERTIFICATE OF REASONABLE INQUIRY

I hereby certify that I have made a reasonable inquiry, as permitted by the circumstances, to determine whether there are grounds for a good faith belief that there has been negligence in the medical care and/or treatment rendered to MARRISSA HACKETT. This inquiry has given rise to a good faith belief on my part that grounds exist for an action against each of the named defendants.

THE PLAINTIFFS

BY:



STEVEN J. ERRANTE, ESQ.
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Judicial District of
New Haven

Judicial Branch Website: www.jud.ct.gov

Superior Court
Office of the Chief Clerk
235 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510-0999
Phone: (203) 503-6800
Fax: (203) 503-6885

NOTICE TO ALL COUNSEL

Your petition for Automatic Extension of the Statute of Limitations pursuant to C.G.S. 52-190a(b) has been granted, as indicated on the order on the attached original of the petition. A copy of the Petition will be maintained by the Clerk's Office for a period of six months after it is granted. A civil entry fee will be collected at the time writ, summons and complaint are filed with the Clerk's Office, if and when you bring suit. The original petition must be returned to the Court at that time.

Thank you,
Chief Clerk

◇ MARRISSA HACKETT
163 STANDISH AVENUE
NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473

: SUPERIOR COURT
:
:
:

VS.

: J.D. OF NEW HAVEN

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
345 WHITNEY AVENUE
NEW HAVEN, CT 06511

: NEW HAVEN
:
:
:

STEPHANIE MALIA, APRN
345 WHITNEY AVENUE
NEW HAVEN, CT 06511

:
:
:
:

OTHER PARTIES NOT YET IDENTIFIED

: FEBRUARY 20, 2018

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Pursuant to § 52-190a(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Applicant, **Marrissa Hackett**, petitions the Clerk of the Superior Court for the **Judicial District of New Haven** to extend the applicable statute of limitations for ninety (90) additional days to allow for reasonable inquiry into the grounds for pursuing legal action against the potential defendants/ respondents,

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

STEPHANIE MALIA, APRN

OTHER PARTIES NOT YET IDENTIFIED

This matter concerns care and treatment rendered, or not rendered, as the case may be, to **Marrissa Hackett**, while she was under the care and responsibility of the aforesaid potential

Judicial District of New Haven
SUPERIOR COURT
FILED

FEB 21 2018

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

◇ defendants/respondents, which care and treatment, or lack thereof, may have resulted in actionable harm.

Any action which may be brought by **Marrissa Hackett** within the extended period of time will be filed in this Court. **The alleged malpractice is thought to have commenced on or about March 7, 2016 and continued for some period of time thereafter.**

WHEREFORE, the Applicant submits this Petition to extend the statute of limitations in this case for an additional ninety (90) days.

THE APPLICANT/PLAINTIFF

BY: 

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Marisa A. Bellair, Esq.
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52 Trumbull Street
New Haven, CT 06510
Tel. No. (203) 787-0275
Fax No.: (203) 782-0278
Juris # 034876

ORDER February 21, 2018

The foregoing having been considered, it is hereby ORDERED:

GRANTED/DENIED.

THE COURT

BY: _____
JUDGE/CLERK *[Signature]*

REGARDING THE MATTER OF MARRISSA HACKETT

I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and I am familiar with the Standard of Care as it related to APRNs and the practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the year 2016 in the United States. I have reviewed the medical records and/or radiology studies of Planned Parenthood of New England, Hammers Healthcare Imaging, Yale New Haven Hospital and Primary Care Clinic Women's Center.

Based on my review of the above materials, it is my opinion that there appears to be evidence of medical negligence on the part of Stephanie Malia, APRN and Planned Parenthood of New England in the care and treatment of Marrisona Hackett on or about March 7, 2016.

The basis for this opinion includes the failure of Stephanie Malia, APRN and Planned Parenthood of New England to perform a thorough internal examination of Marrisona Hackett on March 7, 2016. During that internal examination Stephanie Malia, APRN and Planned Parenthood of New England should have, but failed to, diagnose that Marrisona Hackett was approximately 14 weeks pregnant. If Stephanie Malia, APRN and Planned Parenthood of New England wanted to confirm the diagnosis of pregnancy on March 7, 2016, they could have, but failed to, perform and/or arrange to have performed, an ultrasound study. In addition, had the pregnancy been confirmed on March 7, 2016, Stephanie Malia,

APRN and Planned Parenthood of New England could have and should have provided Marrissa Hackett with education and counseling regarding this pregnancy and provided her with the opportunity to make an informed decision regarding this pregnancy.

It is my opinion that these deviations from the applicable Standards of Care pertaining to the care and treatment of Marrissa Hackett on March 7, 2016 resulted in an unplanned pregnancy and the ramifications of an unplanned pregnancy.

The opinion stated herein is based upon the information available to me at this time, as herein before described. Should other information and evidence become available, I reserve the right to supplement and/or amend this opinion.



4-5-18

Date