In Circuit Court

A Cook County probate judge approved a $3 million settlement Thursday reached between a hospital and the estate of a woman who died of a brain bleed after giving birth.

The lawsuit alleged that the University of Chicago Hospital failed to diagnose and treat the brain bleed of Zelina Smith, an unmarried 31-year-old mother of two girls.

In August 2005, Smith was given an epidural and delivered her baby without any complications. After the delivery, she experienced a headache that was diagnosed as a spinal epidural headache.

The headache continued for the next several days, and pain medication and other treatment didn't alleviate the problem.

No imaging studies were ordered or performed to rule out the possibility of a brain bleed.

She was hospitalized for a week after the delivery. In the early morning hours after she was discharged, she collapsed and died in an emergency room. An autopsy revealed that the brain bleed was present when she was at the hospital.

Scott D. Lane of Lane & Lane LLC represented the estate. **Matthew L. Johnson** of Johnson & Bell Ltd. represented the hospital. Johnson couldn't be reached for comment.

The case settled by mediation before **Donald P. O'Connell**. Cook County Associate Judge **Gregory M. O'Brien** approved the settlement. *McCoy Smith, etc. v. The University of Chicago Hospitals, etc.*, No. 07 L 007997.