

Routine Surgery - One family's story

"Our daughter went through the routine surgery just fine. She was awake and talking at about 9:30 in the morning. I saw her and she was just fine," said Deb Maestri. In the next few hours 17-year-old Kelley Maestri was given too much morphine in repeated doses. Kelley slipped into a coma and died.

The hospital circled its wagons right after they told the Maestri family that their healthy teenage daughter died. They would not speak to the family nor allow any of their staff to communicate with the family. In terrible shock and grief, the Maestris had no one to turn to for answers to their questions. It did not take them long to realize they needed a good lawyer. A friend of Deb's recommended Fred Soucie.

"It meant a lot to me that he came to visit me in my home rather than asking me to go up to his office in Anoka. My family and I needed all the security and comfort we could find," Deb said. "This was not about money; it was about finding answers and protecting my family."

"Fred understood right away that Kelley was our daughter, not just some victim. He made sure that everything he did protected us. We had to make some very hard decisions about what honored the memory of our daughter. Fred made sure that the entire experience was as easy for us as he could make it."

Fred Soucie led a team that uncovered the facts of the case.

A nurse with many years of experience administered the excess dose of morphine to Kelley. The Nursing Board reviewed the case, found the nurse negligent and guilty of malpractice. They did not fine her nor suspend her license, but imposed restrictions for a while. She is still a practicing nurse.

"That was especially hard for me," said Deb Maestri, who is an emergency room nurse. "I hold people's lives in my hands every day. No medical professional can afford to ever make a 'mistake' like that. I can't believe she was not punished."

Kelley died in 1999. Two years ago, the Maestris adopted a brother and sister from a Russian orphanage with the money that they had saved for Kelley's education. The laughter of two little children now rings in their home. "A lot of people thought we were trying to replace Kelley," said Deb. "Every parent knows that no child can ever be replaced by another. But one day I just happened to see someone from ChildLink International on TV talking about the children in Russia who needed homes. Kelley had once told me that I should try foster care or adoption someday so other kids could have me as a mom. It just clicked."

"I was glad we were able to resolve this tragic claim for such a wonderful family," said Fred Soucie.

Accolades in the office

Fred Soucie and David Bolt were once again named "Super Lawyers" by Minnesota Law and Politics Magazine. Soucie has won this award 11 years in a row and Bolt has won the award 7 years in a row. The "Super Lawyer" designation is earned by less than five percent of all attorneys in Minnesota. Attorneys are selected through a statewide survey of their peers and a blue ribbon panel.

"We are truly humbled that our peers hold us in such high regard," Fred said. "Our clients as well as our staff are the reason for the award."



Kelly Boyd was recently named a Rising Star by Minnesota Law & Politics Magazine for the second year in a row. The designation recognizes the excellent service and performance of lawyers with fewer than 10 years of experience or who are under the age of 40.

Kelly was selected through a survey of last year's Super Lawyers. Kelly has more than 20 years of experience in the legal field, having worked her way up to become a trial lawyer three years ago. She's been with Soucie and Bolt for nine years.

... because bad things happen to *good* people

SOUCIE & BOLT

PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

100 Anoka Office Center

2150 Third Avenue North

Anoka, Minnesota 55303

763 427 8888 Office

763 421 2560 Fax

800 499 2394 Toll-Free

www.soucielaw.com

A warm welcome from Soucie & Bolt

Everyone at Soucie & Bolt would like to extend a warm welcome to our new clients from the firm of Babcock, Neilson, Mannella, LaFleur & Klint PLLP.

That firm's two personal injury lawyers have retired and they sought another firm to continue helping their injured clients. They selected Soucie & Bolt because of our reputation and our exclusive focus on helping injured people. We would like to welcome all of these new clients to the Soucie & Bolt family.

Paul Kieffer, a lawyer with many years of experience handling important personal injury cases has joined our firm to help us serve our clients well.

We pride ourselves on our excellent service with a personal touch. We were also fortunate to be able to hire two of the Babcock firm's assistants to help Paul and our firm with this transition. Karon Kolles and Kari Martin are on board to help us help you, our valued clients.

As always, if you know of someone who has been injured or killed in an accident, car collision, electrical or power line incident, or other circumstance that requires expert legal help, please call us at 763 427 8888.