

Dh15m suit filed against hospital in Dubai

Policeman left bedridden after alleged botched surgery sues government hospital for damages

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A policeman who has been bedridden for 19 months following two alleged botched surgical procedures, is suing a government hospital for Dh15 million for physical and moral damages.

The policeman, a father of seven children, claims he went to the hospital when he began suffering rectal bleeding.

"My client suffered rectal bleeding. He went to the hospital a number of times and they treated him with medicine. Later they gave him an injection and operated on him to remove a piece of skin. His suffering increased and the pains worsened. He visited the hospital again, suffering high temperature, quivering, urinal difficulty and constant coughing. He was admitted to the operating room and had his appendix removed.

"Afterward, he suffered severe infection in the abdominal wall and thighs. His situation worsened and he suffered complications and constant bleeding after which he underwent an endoscopy to stop the bleeding and doctors removed his gallbladder," said his lawyer Abdullah Al Nasser, of Al Araa Group of Advocates in a civil suit filed before Dubai Civil Court. The court recently held its first hearing in the case and will reconvene later this month to allow the defendant to respond to the allegations.

According to court records, the Dubai Police sent the policeman to Thailand for a medical checkup and treatment. He was admitted to a hospital where it was discovered that rectal fistula were removed following surgery. Doctors operated on him again to implant a plastic rectum.

Weakened drastically

Al Nasser said: "My client was readmitted to the Dubai-based government hospital on June 18, 2009. Since then he has been bedridden and cannot move his hands or legs. His sight was also affected and he weakened drastically."

The Dubai Police then asked the health authorities to form an investigative committee to look into the policeman's case.

The health authority formed a medical committee on January 15, 2010. The committee reached the conclusion that the policeman was a victim of medical malpractice.

Unproductive

Al Nasser argued that the doctors should have had the victim's rectum checked instead of having his appendix removed.

"The Health Authority-assigned committee also decided that the results of the endoscopy were wrongly analysed and doctors erroneously believed that the [appendix] had exploded, meanwhile it didn't.

"Doctors also failed to examine the rectum or take a biopsy. My client was subject to continuous and repeated malpractice. The defendant also failed to render the proper medication and treatment.

Following this case, my client lost his job because he became unproductive and inefficient," the advocate said. "His wife and children returned to their homeland because their father cannot support them anymore... they won't be able to get the proper elite education they required."

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