

# The Hour

## City woman dies, spent 9 years in coma

By STEVE KOBAK, Hour Staff Writer

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NORWALK -- After spending almost nine years in a coma, a Norwalk woman who suffered severe brain damage while being anesthetized for a Caesarean section passed away early Thursday morning.

Mia House, 43, slipped into a coma on July 8, 2003, at Norwalk Hospital while giving birth to her daughter, Kayleb House, who survived the birth despite being deprived of oxygen. She is now a healthy 8-year-old girl.

Mia House died at about 4 a.m. Thursday in a long-term care facility in Bristol, family members confirmed.

The cause of her death is unknown.

Family members said they needed time to grieve before commenting on the matter.

Dr. Jay Angeluzzi, the anesthesiologist, failed to monitor House's blood oxygen level, and the dangerously low oxygen level was not discovered until an oncologist noticed that House's baby girl and uterus were blue, according to documents from the lawsuit.

House's family was awarded \$17 million in 2006 after suing Norwalk Hospital, Angeluzzi and Norwalk Anesthesiology P.C. for malpractice.

**Richard A. Silver**, of the Stamford-based law firm **Silver Golub & Teitell**, represented House's family during the litigation, and he kept in sporadic touch with the family until House's death.

Silver said he was "very sad" about House's passing, and he plans to attend her funeral.

"I think that this is an immense tragedy and a tragedy that could have been prevented," he said.

Silver also represented the family of Sadie Cole, who fell into a coma while being anesthetized by Angeluzzi on July 15, 1998. The Cole family successfully sued Norwalk Hospital for \$12 million, and the hospital agreed to absorb Cole's medical costs.

Cole passed away in August 2011 at the same Bristol medical facility where House succumbed to her ailment.

Cole and House were family friends.

Silver said he keeps a picture of House's daughter and Cole's children in his wallet next to pictures of his own grandchildren.