

Mobilian awarded \$600,000 by jury

A Mobile County Circuit Court jury has awarded a Mobile man \$600,000 in connection with the death of his 17-year-old daughter, who was paralyzed following surgery for scoliosis.

The judgment was against the Mobile Infirmary and Dr. Kenneth Hannon. The jury found in favor of Dr. Alfred S. Callahan of Nashville, Tenn.

The trial before Judge Michael Zoghby lasted two weeks.

Michael Worel, the attorney for L.E. Duncan, the father of 17-year-old Sonya Duncan, said in 1981, Miss Duncan had an operation to correct scoliosis. He said the girl, who was then 11 years old, had suffered from Prader-Willi syndrome since birth and then came to have scoliosis. Attorney Valentino D.B. Mazzio also represented the Duncans.

Worel said the evidence at trial showed the girl was paralyzed during surgery and that after surgery a normal wake-up test was done to see if she could move. The lawyer said she moved her upper body, but could not move her lower body and because there was a delay in moving rods from her upper body, which would have corrected the problem, she was paralyzed from the chest down.

Worel said in 1987 the girl died after a series of infections.