



# NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1995 / Cloudy and cooler with showers today, 72; showers tonight, 55 / Details, Page 24 \*\*\* R

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Don Cronin

**MOTHERLY LOVE:** *Sylvia Rodriguez (right), at home in Wappingers Falls with daughter Jasmine Matos, feels vindicated by the verdict.*

## TEEN WINS \$42M HHC SUIT

By JENNIFER HAVILAH

A jury has ordered the city Health and Hospitals Corp. to pay \$42 million in damages to a disabled 17-year-old whose birth was botched by residents at Lincoln Hospital.

The Bronx Supreme Court jury found in a decision Tuesday night that the delivery left Jasmine Matos brain-damaged, deaf, speech-impaired and learning-disabled.

The teen-ager's mother, speaking from her home in upstate Wappingers Falls yesterday, said the decision

### City hosp botched birth

was the correct one.

"Nothing is consolation. Nothing is going to pay for the damage," Sylvia Rodriguez said. "Her life will never be the same."

Matos' lawyer, Thomas Moore, described the mistakes in 1978 that led to the girl's injuries as "one screw-up after another."

He said labor trainee residents ignored test results indicating the baby was

being deprived of oxygen.

"Eventually, a second-year trainee yanked at and pulled Jasmine from the birth canal in a complicated, violent forceps delivery, causing bleeding from the infant's brain," he said.

Moore said Jasmine was "almost lifeless at birth." He also argued that the hospital later changed the mother's records with "white-out."

"It was a monumental ef-

fort to cover up their mistakes," the lawyer said.

Rodriguez said she would use whatever money she eventually gets from HHC to "do the best" for her daughter.

"She has already lost so much out of her life," the mother said.

Jasmine is a ninth-grader at Arlington HS and has a full-time helper who translates conversation into sign language.

The award was the biggest against city hospitals since a \$72.65 million verdict in a 1993 case, also involving a botched delivery.