

\$21M to girl who never got to see mother

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A Brooklyn Supreme Court jury has awarded \$21 million to the daughter of a woman who died hours after giving birth to the girl at Woodhull Hospital.

During a three-week trial, lawyers for Tasia Roberts, 6, argued that her mother, Dorothy Roberts, drowned in her own blood nine hours after she delivered the girl.

A Health and Hospitals Corp. spokeswoman said the decision would be appealed.

"Like any child who doesn't have a parent, she asks her father all the time about her mother," said Tasia's attorney, Judy Livingston. "She wants to know if her mother ever saw or held her. One day, her father is going to have to tell her the answer to those questions is no."

Roberts, a "perfectly healthy" 22-year-old when she went into labor March 4, 1989, gave birth to Tasia about 10:30 a.m., said Livingston.

"But after the baby was born, she started bleeding from a lung," said Livingston. "The doctors never diagnosed where the bleeding was or did anything to stop the bleeding. She was slowly drowned in her own blood."

As she lay dying in the hospital's intensive care unit, said Livingston, Dorothy asked her husband, Troy Bryant, about her baby.

"She couldn't speak because she had a tube down her throat, but she kept spelling out letters, asking how the baby was," said Livingston.

Bryant told her she had given birth "to a beautiful baby girl. She started crying, but never got to see her," said Livingston.