

St. Mary's Hospital settles lawsuit, pays \$600,000

Suit alleged girl received 'inadequate medical care'

**By Scott Williams
Of The Examiner**

St. Mary's Hospital of Blue Springs has agreed to pay \$600,000 in the settlement of a wrongful-death suit filed by the parents of a girl who died after a tonsillectomy at the hospital.

Randall and Rosie Cross, both medical professionals, said in their lawsuit filed last month that St. Mary's provided "inadequate medical care" in the treatment of their 7-year-old daughter, Katherine.

The lawsuit was settled out of court earlier this month.

A first grader at Greenwood Elementary School, Katherine Cross died May 19 at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, one day after going to St. Mary's for what her parents say was a routine tonsillectomy.

Officials at the hospital today said two registered nurses — who were among a half-dozen medical personnel named in the settlement of the suit — left the staff of St. Mary's earlier this week.

Melody J. Myers left Monday after less than a year on the job, and Marian Gardner left the next day

after more than six years at the hospital.

St. Mary's officials did not give any other details about the departures.

According to court records unsealed Thursday by a Jackson County judge at the request of The Blue Springs Examiner, Myers and Gardner were among three nurses specifically released from any liability in the death of Katherine Cross.

The settlement said the nurses were freed from liability for "alleged negligent acts or omissions in the medical treatment" of the girl.

St. Mary's officials today said the third nurse, seven-year veteran Polly Rudnay, is still on the staff.

In the settlement, three doctors were named as specifically not being released from liability. The Crosses reserved the right to file claims against William Mangum, John Ellis and Scott Shelly.

Hospital officials said Mangum has been on staff since 1981, and Ellis since 1985. The hospital had no record of a physician named Scott Shelly.

Attempts to reach all six medical professionals named in the case were