

Torrington family awarded \$3 million in wrongful death lawsuit

By [Amanda Webster](#)

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TORRINGTON >> The family of a Torrington man was awarded \$3 million by the Superior Court in Hartford this week, after the man's death was found to be caused by a case of medical malpractice.

Andrew J. Olsen died in 2009 at the age of 67 due to heart failure. According to attorney James Horwitz, of Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, his death could have been prevented.

Horwitz represented Cynthia Olsen, wife of Andrew Olsen, in a suit against Dr. Dariush Owlia and Cardiology PC. Dr. Stephen E. Bryant and his Litchfield Internal Medicine was also named a defendant in the case, but he was no longer a defendant during the trial, meaning he may have settled outside of court.

Owlia was represented by Tom Boyce of Halloran & Sage in Hartford.

According to the lawsuit, Andrew Olsen suffered from a condition called aortic stenosis, which means one of his heart valves had become clogged. Olsen was seen by Dr. Stephen Bryant at his office at Litchfield Internal Medicine.

Olsen had complained of experiencing shortness of breath and Bryant conducted an echocardiogram. Olsen was then referred to Dr. Dariush Owlia and Cardiology PC for further tests after the results of the echocardiogram showed a narrowing heart valve.

Owlia diagnosed Olsen with sleep apnea and failed to look over the results of the echocardiogram, according to the lawsuit.

Olsen's health began to deteriorate and he continued to suffer from increased shortness of breath, leg edema and hypoxia and he went back to Bryant. However, because of Owlia's diagnosis, Olsen's heart was no longer considered a major risk factor, according to the suit.

Horwitz said that had the proper medical actions been taken, Olsen could have received a new heart valve.

The trial began on June 3 and the case went to the jury on Tuesday. Bryant was found to be 60 percent responsible in the case and Owlia was found to be 40 percent responsible, meaning that Bryant is responsible for 60 percent of the restitution and Owlia the other 40 percent.

“The family was very gratified by the court’s decision,” said Horwitz.

Neither Owlia, Bryant nor their attorney could be reached for comment. Horwitz said Owlia has since retired from the practice.