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Boy receives \$28M for injury at birth

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A federal judge has awarded \$28 million to a 4-year-old boy who suffered permanent brain damage when he was deprived of oxygen around the time of his birth.

In a written opinion, Chief U.S. District Judge David R. Herndon of the Southern District of Illinois awarded an additional \$150,000 to Sean Cobbs' parents.

Herndon held that negligence by three doctors left the boy with physical and cognitive problems that prevent him from leading a normal life.

"He will never have a family of his own. He will never live independently," Herndon wrote. "He will be incontinent. He will never have friends. He will never ride a bike or swim."

Herndon found that the damages suffered by Sean totaled \$29.6 million.

He set off that amount by the \$1.6 million that the boy received in a settlement reached with Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

Herndon also found that Sean's mother, Patoya Bryant, and father, also named Sean Cobbs, have provided their son with \$200,000 in day-to-day care so far.

"Patoya and Sean have done a remarkable job caring for little Sean," Herndon wrote. "Every day of his life they have performed therapy, massaged and stretched him, worked on his speech, taught him to catch and throw a ball and have essentially devoted their lives to him."

He set off the \$200,000 by the \$50,000 that Bryant and Cobbs received in the settlement with the hospital.

The U.S. government is liable for the judgment because Sean was delivered at a federally funded facility.

[Robert S. Baizer](#) and [Joseph E. Kolar](#) of Baizer, Kolar & Lewis P.C. in Highland Park represent Sean and his parents.

"We're pleased with the result," Kolar said. "It's a sad situation but,



Joseph E. Kolar



Robert S. Baizer

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