

NL DAY

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Woman files second lawsuit against local chiropractor

Claims fraud in failure to pay previous award

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A former New London woman who won a \$10 million lawsuit against her chiropractor after she became paralyzed claimed in a lawsuit filed Friday that the man fraudulently transferred his assets to avoid paying the award.

Linda J. Solsbury, 41, filed the complaint in New London Superior Court against Thomas B. Goulding and his wife, Beth S. Goulding, of 40 S. Ridge Drive, East Lyme.

The couple are both chiropractors with offices in Waterford and East Lyme.

Ms. Solsbury suffered a stroke

that left her a quadriplegic unable to speak in October 1985. She claimed she had the stroke after Goulding manipulated her cervical vertebrae and caused damage that blocked the flow of blood to her brain.

A six-member jury last month awarded Ms. Solsbury \$10 million after a trial in which she testified by tapping her responses on the keys of a computer keyboard that registered her words on courtroom monitors.

Ms. Solsbury, who was a pediatric nurse at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London, now lives at New Britain Memorial Hospital.

The Gouldings and Ms. Solsbury's lawyer, Andrew J. Brand of Suisman Shapiro Wool Brennan & Gray, could not be reached for comment Friday.

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Lawsuit

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A May 13 hearing is scheduled for Brand to argue for \$11 million in attachments on the couple's property.

The complaint stated that in 1988, during preparation for the lawsuit that resulted in last month's trial, Goulding and his wife began to file separate income tax returns to establish separate chiropractic practices. Although the couple had been operating under the name of Goulding Chiropractic Practices at least as early as 1988, the complaint stated, Goulding began paying consultation fees to his wife in exorbitant amounts.

The lawsuit stated that the con-

sultations took place "outside of their offices, in the car, at the breakfast table, as well as in the office ... " The complaint stated that Goulding didn't receive such consultation fees from his wife even though he provided her with comparable consultations.

The result, the lawsuit stated, was that Goulding reported higher business expenses which reduced his taxable income despite no substantial change in his patient load.

In turn, the lawsuit stated, Goulding has been rendered insolvent and unable to pay his creditors, including Ms. Solsbury.

The complaint also alleged that

in 1988, Goulding terminated his profit-sharing plan, transferred it to a life insurance policy and deposited money from his business into the policy rather than the profit-sharing plan.

The lawsuit also claimed the couple bought their East Lyme house in 1989 and put it in Mrs. Goulding's name, but the payments on the property were made by Goulding through an office account.

The complaint stated Goulding made the transfers and conveyances to protect his property to prevent Ms. Solsbury from receiving any money from sale of the property.