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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST  
AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE**

**Ambulance Crew Dropped Patient from Stretcher onto her Head, Causing  
Massive Head Injuries and Wrongful Death; Family Filing Wrongful Death  
Complaint in Suffolk Superior Court**

**(Boston)** The family of Barbara Grimes, who died on February 4, 2009 after she was dropped on her head by an ambulance crew employed by American Medical Response, has filed a wrongful death law suit against the company in Suffolk Superior Court.

According to family attorney Marc L. Breakstone, Barbara Grimes, then 68 years old, was being transported for dialysis treatment in Plymouth, MA. While rolling the stretcher to the back of the ambulance, the AMR team dropped Ms. Grimes on her head, causing massive head injuries. She was taken to Jordon Hospital, then transported by Med Flight to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital where she died five days later from a brain hemorrhage.

The incident was investigated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health which found several clinical deficiencies. AMR was cited by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the deficiencies.

Breakstone said, "This was an unnecessary death which should have been prevented by simple precautions. If the ambulance crew was holding on to the stretcher, it would not have toppled over."

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Breakstone also said “The ambulance crew claimed that the stretcher malfunctioned, but they never inspected the stretcher and no defect was ever found. Their explanation is simply not believable, especially since the stretcher has multiple safety systems.”

Breakstone added, “This is a case of gross negligence of the AMR crew which was the direct cause of her injuries and her death.”

Peter Zacarelli, the brother of Ms. Grimes, called the accident “senseless.” He said, “Professionals like these ambulance drivers are expected to be careful, to check the stretcher and to lock it. It is shocking that they could be so negligent. Our family is haunted by this senseless loss.”

AMR, based in Boston, is the largest ambulance company in the world.

The complaint, which was filed in Suffolk County Superior Court, seeks damages for the wrongful death of Ms. Grimes, and punitive damages for the gross negligence of the AMR personnel.

### **Background Information About Marc L. Breakstone**

Marc L. Breakstone has established a reputation as one of the top personal injury and medical malpractice lawyers in New England. He has been selected as one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers in New England (2009) and in Massachusetts (2006-2010). He has also been selected by his peers as one of the top medical malpractice plaintiff's lawyers in the Super Lawyer balloting from 2004 to 2010. In 2002, Mr. Breakstone has been honored as one of ten "Lawyers of the Year" in 2002 by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*.