

**Fen-Phen / Redux**

Box 62090 • King of Prussia, PA 19406-0230 • (610) 768-7800 • (610) 962-4681

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## ***Iowa Woman Alleges Valve Damage, Stroke From Fen-Phen Use***

The action was filed by Scott H. Peters of the Peters Law Firm of Council Bluffs and **Zoe B Littlepage** of Ravkind & Littlepage of Houston.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa — An Iowa woman has sued several drug manufacturers, a pharmacy and two pharmacists, alleging her use of fen-phen damaged her heart valves and, ultimately, led to a stroke (Dorothy Rollins v. Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories Division of American Home Products Corp., et al., No. 75016, Iowa Dist., Pottawattamie Co.).

Dorothy Rollins sued May 21 in Pottawattamie County District Court Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories Division of American Home Products Corp.; A.H. Robins Company Inc.; American Home Products Corp.; Rugby Laboratories Inc.; Osco Drug Inc., a pharmacy; and pharmacists Mark Allgood and Betty Cordell.

Rollins took Pondimin and phentermine for weight loss from 1996 to 1997. In April 1997, she experienced extreme chest pain and shortness of breath. Medical examination and testing revealed severe heart valve regurgitation, according to the complaint.

She underwent surgical replacement of her aortic and mitral heart valves on May 22, 1997. During the procedure, she was exposed to blood Albumin contaminated with Creutzfeldt/Jakob disease, which the complaint describes as a "rare form of dementia which is caused by a transmissible agent."

After the surgery, Rollins was put on daily medications, including Coumadin, but she had difficulty normalizing her Coumadin levels. In December 1997, she suffered a severe stroke allegedly caused by the release of a blood clot from her artificial heart valves, the complaint says.

Rollins currently has little use of one arm and leg and is totally disabled, the complaint says, alleging Rollins' problems are proximately caused by her use of Pondimin, individually or in combination with phentermine.

The complaint alleges claims for strict product liability, negligence, breach of warranty and civil conspiracy. Rollins seeks compensatory and punitive damages and interest.