

They felt that if the doctors had detected Jeanette's diabetes, then they could have induced Melissa's birth at an earlier time, before Melissa had grown so big. They also felt that the doctors should have detected the diabetes. Jeanette was already forty when she became pregnant, and she was already overweight. She quickly gained more weight during her pregnancy. She had high blood pressure. In addition to all that, Jeanette's own mother was severely diabetic.

Melissa's parents felt that any competent doctor would know that all these things are indications of diabetes. They felt that because Jeanette's doctors had not tested her for diabetes, they had been negligent. They decided to take the doctors to court and sue them.

The case went on for a long time, but eventually, a judge decided that Melissa's parents were right. The doctors had been negligent. The doctors' insurance company was ordered to pay Melissa eight million Canadian dollars. This money will be used to pay for Melissa's care. Her parents also received \$1-million in compensation for the sacrifices they have had to make. And \$1-million was awarded to the government of Ontario to cover the money it had spent on Melissa's care. This was the largest award for personal injury in the history of Canada.

Although Melissa is handicapped, she does have the ability to enjoy her life. She can recognize people's faces and she has a happy, natural smile. She cannot really understand language, but she enjoys watching television and she likes people to read her stories. Now that Melissa has money, her parents know that, even when they are dead, Melissa will be well looked after in her own home, and that she will continue to be able to enjoy her life as much as possible.