

MERCK'S TOXIC EXPOSURE OF PREGNANT MOTHER CAUSES BRAIN CANCER IN CHILDREN

Family files federal lawsuit against Merck after toxic exposure leads to daughter's death from brain cancer.

ATLANTA (October 15, 2025) – Attorneys Matt Griffith and Parker Miller of Beasley Allen Law Firm, alongside Adam Malone of Malone Law, have filed a federal lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia (Albany Division) on behalf of the Sullivan family, seeking justice for the wrongful death of 26-year-old Saville Sullivan.

The complaint alleges that pharmaceutical giant Merck negligently exposed employees and the surrounding community to a toxic cocktail of hazardous chemicals—including methylene chloride (DCM) and other known carcinogens—during operations at its Flint River Plant in Albany, Georgia. The facility manufactured pharmaceutical products such as Zocor and Prilosec using complex chemical synthesis processes that involved multiple stages of reaction, distillation, and filtration. These processes generated a range of dangerous byproducts, many of which were released into and around the plant, thereby exposing employees to these harmful toxins.

Colleen Sullivan, Saville's mother, was one such employee exposed to those harmful toxins while employed at the plant and during her pregnancies with daughters Saville and Lilia in the late 1990s. Tragically, in 2016, both daughters were diagnosed with rare and aggressive forms of brain cancer within weeks of each other. Saville endured years of surgeries, radiation, and chemotherapy before passing away on October 10, 2023.

The lawsuit alleges that Colleen's workplace exposure to the toxic chemicals while pregnant with her daughters was the cause of these cancers.

"This case is about accountability," said attorney Matt Griffith. "Merck operated a facility that released a toxic soup of chemicals—many of them known to cause cancer—into the environment. They failed to protect their workers and the community, and the Sullivan family paid the ultimate price."

The lawsuit accuses Merck of failing to warn employees, neglecting to implement safety protocols, and knowingly releasing toxic chemicals into the air, water, and soil surrounding the plant. The legal team seeks damages for pain, suffering, and the wrongful death of Saville Sullivan, who is survived by her husband, Chandler Larkin.

"No family should ever have to endure the pain and suffering that Saville and the Sullivan family experienced and continue to experience," said Parker Miller. "Our pregnant workers place an enormous amount of trust in employers like Merck to keep the workplace safe – not just for the employees, but for their developing unborn children. Breaking this trust, as silent as it often is, has real-life tragic consequences. We are seeking justice for this family, but we also bring this case with the hope of preventing something like this from happening to another family."

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