

## Transcript for Dr. Gloria Blackwell

**Dr. Gloria Blackwell:** But we did feel we had to address the hospital issue and it's difficult to find someone to sue a hospital while they are being operated on by the surgeon at that hospital. So it was very difficult. They could say afterwards things they didn't like, but you can't get the person under the knife to be very aggressive.

My daughter was in high school at Wilkinson and she hurt her finger, dislocated her little finger ... joint or something. And the principal... I was teaching third grade at a local school came to my room to tell me that they rushed her to the hospital and they needed me to come. She was not reacting well to the medicine or the medication that was supposed to sedate her. And when they took her away to set this finger, they told me I couldn't stay in this emergency room unit. So they said you can wait in the waiting room. They were very, very nice. They had been nice to her and nice to me.

The lady said just wait in the waiting room. She made a gesture. The gesture seemed to indicate that I should turn to the right and wait there, but there was nothing, there really was nothing at the right end of that corridor, but a Coke machine, some sort of drink vending machine and some crates turned on the side. And one or two persons sitting on the crates. Black persons. And I ... uhm... knew I must have misunderstood.

I went on to the right where I knew a waiting room existed and went in and sat. That sitting, going there that time, resulted in I being arrested. And the police came and took me away.

When they found I was sitting in the waiting room, the hospital and the NAACP local treasurer came and paid the money and I did not have to go into a cell at that time.

Then after I was arrested and released ... uhmm...they would not have the trial. Matthew Perry would come down because he was the attorney for the NAACP out of Columbia. And they never were ready. I was out of school and here for this trial. He [Perry] said well the man representing Orangeburg hospital said he didn't think we could have this hearing today. Perry ... Matthew Perry said well "Why?"



He said, “Well, we haven’t decided what to charge her with. We can’t agree on a charge.”

Rev. Matthew said, “Oh don’t worry about it, charge her with anything. Charge her with murder. It doesn’t matter.” You know how Matthew was.

He said “That’s alright counselor. Don’t worry about it, charge her with anything.”

And the other man. Matthew was kind of tall. This other man was kind of short.

“Counselor, are you suggesting we are not going to get a fair trial here.”

Both of them laughed because they knew it was a joke. It didn’t make any difference and Matthew was saying all we want to do is have the hearing here so we can take it up to the appellate ladder. Because she is going to lose here anyway no matter what they charge her with. Let’s just get this done and go on with it. And of course we will eventually win.

So before we could even do that, they threw it out. And I asked Matthew, well whenever are we going to trial.

He said, “They have given the money back.”

I said “No, we can’t do that.” So we sued the hospital and won the suit that ended segregation for the hospital.

*End of Video.*