

Orlando cancer victim wins \$3.35 million award

□ The suit said doctors reading her mammogram failed to spot early signs she had breast cancer.

By Delthia Ricks

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

An Orlando woman whose doctors misread a mammogram has won a \$3.35 million jury award against the medical group that should have spotted her cancer before it grew, her lawyer said Friday.

Ruth Ruffin, now 56, underwent a routine mammogram in December 1992 at the Medical Center Radiology Group in Orlando. Although one doctor noted something suspicious on the X-ray,

word to Ruffin from the doctors was that there was nothing to worry about.

By July 1993, Ruffin had discovered a lump in her right breast and sought help from a different Orlando doctor, said her lawyer, Elizabeth Faiella.

But it was Ruffin's daughter, Angela McCoo, a medical student in Mississippi, who took her mother's mammograms to a professor, who helped the family get a proper diagnosis.

Doctors in Mississippi noted that the cancer was clearly evident on the 1992 mammograms.

"This is so sad," said Faiella, the lawyer who represented Ruffin and her husband, Elton, in Circuit Court. "She went in for a regular screening; they should have found it then."

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