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Man Lives With Surgical Blade in Hand for 10 Years

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Medical malpractice case set to go before State Supreme Court

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CHARLESTON -- As a locksmith, Parkersburg resident Paul Forshey relies on the strength of his hands.

That's why he had surgery in 19-95 to try to help with his carpal tunnel syndrome.

But when he injured his thumb more than ten years later, an X-ray revealed a blade from that long-ago surgery had been left behind.

"I almost passed out. I couldn't realize there was I think an inch-and-a-half-long blade, surgical blade in my hand and that answered a lot of my questions over the ten years," said Forshey.

Forshey is suing the Charleston doctor who performed the surgery, Ted Jackson.

Forshey says he's suffered from extreme pain, numbness and loss of grip for more than a decade without knowing why.

"My children would grab my hand and it would put me to my knees and my daughter - being just a baby or two, three years old - she'd want to know what was wrong with my hand," he said.

"He couldn't put any kind of force on his palm and you know, he's a very hands-on type of guy and he likes to be able to do things and he always felt like he was a failure because there's something wrong with my hand but I can't figure out what it is," said Paul's wife Melissa Forshey.

The case was actually dismissed in August of 2006 from Kanawha County Circuit Court on the grounds it exceeded the statute of limitations of ten years.

But the Forsheys are hoping the state supreme court justices will see things differently.

The couple isn't seeking any specific damages but say they want their day in court and for Dr. Jackson to take responsibility.

"I'll never get my hand back. That's something he took and he took a lot of things from me," said Forshey.

13 News tried to reach Dr. Ted Jackson for a comment but was unsuccessful.

Court documents suggest Dr. Jackson does not dispute he was the one who left the blade in Paul Forshey's hand.

The state supreme court is expected to hear arguments in the case later this month.

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