

Dispatcher walks mom through complicated labor

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By **CHRIS HAWES / WFAA-TV**

FORT WORTH - A Fort Worth mother has credited a 911 dispatcher for saving the life of her and her baby.

Cortney Gaddis found herself in a scenario that pregnant mom's fear and are told will likely never happen.

Gaddis said she began to go into labor with only a stranger around. To make matters worse, the umbilical cord came out before the baby, cutting off the baby's blood and oxygen.

"I was in shock, obviously," she said. "I couldn't think. All I could think is, 'Is my baby going to be okay? Is my baby going to be okay?'"

Desperate and lying in her car, a stranger in a Fort Worth parking lot called 911.

"We can't see the baby," the stranger told the dispatcher. "We can see the cord."

While MedStar dispatcher Rebecca Sims said she had never received a call quite like the one that day, she said her training kicked in.

"We want her to roll over and get up on her elbows and knees," Sims said.

The stranger gently told Sims what to do. Sims said she feared the baby wouldn't have a steady pulse.

"Put the cord between your thumb and middle finger and gently feel for a pulse, okay?" Sims said during the 911 call.

The stranger counted off the pulse, and Sims was relieved to hear it was normal.

Christian was born by emergency caesarean section later that day. He weighed one pound and six ounces.

Gaddis said she still spends most of her time near her son at Cook Children's Medical Center, where he's steadily getting stronger. Christian took his first bottle Tuesday.

But Wednesday, she and her family took the time to meet Sims, the person they said made Christian's fight possible.

Christian received his name in part because Gaddis said she believes God put Sims in the right place at the right time to help her.

"Miracles and good endings happen," Gaddis said.

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VIDEO



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Chris Hawes reports.
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