

Chapter 4



California

Contra Costa

Tran



Suit Links Death to ‘Abortion Pill’
By Jennifer Muir, *Orange County Register*, October 7th, 2005.

Excerpt:

The husband of a Fountain Valley woman who died after taking the so-called abortion pill RU-486 has sued the drug’s manufacturers and a local Planned Parenthood, accusing them of not warning her of the drug’s risks . . .

Tran died Dec. 29, 2003 – six days after beginning the drugs’ cycle. She was 22. An autopsy revealed evidence of sepsis, an illness caused by infection in the bloodstream, according to the complaint.

The Federal Drug Administration in July issued a public health advisory warning after four women in California, including Tran, died from sepsis after taking the drugs. The first U.S. death was reported in September 2003; a death in Canada was reported in 2001 . . .

Also named is Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties . . . Tran, a former education student at Santa Ana College, received the drugs Dec. 23, 2003, at the Planned Parenthood in Costa Mesa . . . Had she known of the risks, she would not have taken the drug or would have gotten the medical attention necessary to save her life, the lawsuit said.

Riverside

Goode

Court Document:

[CA Riverside Meloncon 2007 Complaint for Wrongful Death and Medical Malpractice filed by her mother](#)

Excerpt:

5. Despite the clearly demonstrated bacterial vaginosis infection, [the nurse] proceeded to place five seaweed stick cervical dilators through . . . Goode's already infected vagina and into her cervix. Thus, the seaweed stick cervical dilators became like wicks that would take the existing local infection through the vagina into the cervix and turn the local vaginal infection into a raging systemic infection rapidly leading to sepsis and toxic shock syndrome of the entire body . . . the Riverside County Coroner determined that the cause of death was "toxic shock syndrome secondary to retained laminaria cervical dilators."



Abortion procedure caused death of Riverside woman, lawsuit alleges
by Jonathan Abrams, *The Los Angeles Times*, June 21, 2017

Excerpt:

The mother of a Riverside woman who died of toxic shock syndrome after allegedly undergoing an abortion procedure at Planned Parenthood filed a malpractice suit against the organization and a Riverside County hospital this week. The lawsuit alleges that . . . a nurse inserted cervical dilators, used to gradually expand the cervix in preparation for second-trimester abortions, despite the fact that Goode had a vaginal infection.

The dilators, which are shaped like small sticks and consist primarily of seaweed, became a conduit that spread the infection to the rest of her body, the lawsuit alleges.



Mother blames Riverside abortion procedure for daughter's death
Orange Register, June 25, 2007

Excerpt:

“My daughter made a choice, but she didn’t choose to die,” Meloncon [her mother] said. “A lost dog gets more attention than my daughter did. This has really torn at my family.”

Planned Parenthood mailed two letters to Goode stating the dilators needed to be taken out, but Meloncon said the family never received the letters. The woman said Planned Parenthood should have been more aggressive in contacting her daughter . . .

With her condition deteriorating, Goode was taken to Riverside County Regional Medical Center in Moreno Valley on Feb. 4. A blood test confirmed Goode was pregnant, and Meloncon said she asked that a pelvic examination be performed. But the hospital said it couldn’t perform one because Goode would not consent, the suit said.

“She was confused and disorientated,” Meloncon said. “It was totally out of character for what her behavior normally is.”

The hospital performed a pelvic examination Feb. 13 and found the dilators. Goode had a miscarriage that day and died the next, the lawsuit said.

Hayward

Patterson



“Monty Patterson Learns about RU-486 the Hard Way”
By Julian Guthrie, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, December 5th, 2011.

Excerpt:

It was just after 9 a.m. on Sept. 17, 2003, when Monty Patterson got the call from the hospital. His daughter was in intensive care, and Patterson, a construction supervisor working on a home in the Oakland hills, was told to hurry. At ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton, Patterson, a divorced dad, was informed that Holly, who had turned 18 three weeks earlier, had an infection from an “incomplete abortion.” The doctor said Holly had taken the abortion pill Sept. 10, and was in septic shock . . .

Efforts to save the vivacious teenager with the blond hair and bright blue eyes failed. She died shortly before 2 p.m.



“Monty Patterson Critical of Planned Parenthood After Daughter’s Death”
By Carly Schwartz, *Huffpost*, December 6th, 2011.

Excerpt:

On September 17, 2003, Monty Patterson rushed to ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton, Calif., where his 18-year-old daughter, Holly, was suffering from septic shock brought on by a medical abortion. Five hours later, Holly was dead . . .

Holly had visited a Planned Parenthood center a week earlier seeking RU-486 — a medical abortion pill — but the center did not follow FDA guidelines when administering the medication. As a result, Holly died from a severe infection brought on by an incomplete abortion . . .

After extensive research, Patterson claimed that it was not only the medication that killed her, but also what he believes to be its improper application, as directed by the Planned Parenthood center that Holly visited. And according to Patterson, this practice is dangerously common. In his research, he claims to have uncovered other previously unreported deaths linked to the pill.

Los Angeles (Bixby)

Lopez



“Clinic Doctor Faulted in Abortion Death”

By Steve Hymon, Staff Writer, *Los Angeles Times*, June 25th, 2003.

A 25-year-old woman bled to death last year after a Planned Parenthood clinic in East Los Angeles neglected to follow established medical procedures during an abortion, according to a report by the state Department of Health Services. The report also found that the clinic failed to report Diana Lopez’s death within 24 hours, as required, and that a doctor working there did not follow clinic policies that would have excluded the woman as a candidate for the procedure. . .

Among the most serious allegations in the state report is that Maltzer violated clinic procedure because he went forward with the abortion even though Lopez’s hemoglobin levels were below the clinic’s standards. Low hemoglobin levels often lead to increased bleeding. The report also states that Maltzer did not follow the clinic’s standards in waiting until Lopez was sufficiently dilated before the procedure.

The clinic did not report Lopez’s death to the state until a week later, even though such notification is supposed to be done within 24 hours, the report said.

The report also found that Planned Parenthood’s patient records lacked basic information on Lopez’s care and condition . . .

Illinois

Chicago

Reaves

The autopsy report and court settlement document for \$2 million can be found at:

www.problemsatplannedparenthood.org/illinois-chicago

Excerpt from Autopsy:

OPINION: The cause of death of this 24-year-old, Black female . . . is due to hemorrhage resulting from cervical dilation and evacuation due to an intrauterine pregnancy.



“Family Seeks Answers After Woman’s Death Following Abortion”
Published *Channel 2 CBS Chicago*, July 21st, 2012

Excerpt:

Tonya Reaves, 24, died late Friday night from a hemorrhage, with a cervical dilation and evacuation, as well as an intrauterine pregnancy as contributing causes, according to the medical examiner's office.

She died after she'd had an abortion at Planned Parenthood at 18 S. Michigan Av, according to the medical examiner's office.

Her death was ruled an accident, but the Reaves family wants to know more, especially Tonya's twin sister Toni.

"We were born the same day. She was my other half," Toni said.

Toni Reaves said the family is trying to get through this.

"It happened so fast. She was just fine one day and then the next day she was gone. We're just trying to figure out what happened. what happened," she said.

Toni Reaves said her sister was engaged to be married and had one son - Alvin - who just had his first birthday.

Massachusetts

Worcester

Name Unknown

Incident Report “Anonymous Woman Death Incident Report”

Report available at:

www.problemsatplannedparenthood.org/massachusetts

Excerpt/Screenshot:

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Date Reported:	12/31/2008	Date of Incident:	12/ /2008
Date Submitted:	06/22/2011	Time of Incident:	:

FACILITY INFORMATION

Facility:	Planned Parenthood Leag Ma Cnt Ma C (4163) 470 Pleasant Street Worcester, MA 01609	ID:	4163
		Type:	Clinic Form
		Facility Reported:	No

INCIDENT NARRATIVE

Complainant's Letter: The Complainant is reporting that allegedly a Client/Patient of this Clinic died because of medical practice by an identified Doctor. The Complainant also alleges that this Clinic has not complied with the Law and is asking DPH to investigate this Clinic's actions and death of the Client/Patient of this Clinic, who allegedly died by an . The Complainant has enclosed and attached a copy of the Death Certificate of the Client/Patient.

Michigan

Kalamazoo

Erwin-Sheppard



“Dead Woman’s Ultrasound Showed Clot, Problems after Abortion, Records Show”
by Rosemary Parker, *Mlive Michigan*, April 13th, 2017

Excerpt:

Cree Erwin-Sheppard went to the emergency department at Bronson Battle Creek Hospital the evening of July 2, 2016 vomiting and in extreme pain . . . By July 4, she was dead . . .

According to the medical record of that emergency visit, shared by her brother Thursday, April 13 at a protest of her death, “the patient’s symptoms and work-up results were consistent with an incomplete miscarriage and pelvic pain.”

An ultrasound showed “the presence of a clot and/or retained products of conception,” the record shows.

She was given morphine for pain, another prescription to calm her vomiting, and prescriptions for more pain pills and anti-nausea medication to be filled after discharge.

Erwin-Sheppard was sent home with her mother with instructions to follow up with a doctor or Planned Parenthood after the holiday weekend. She died before that was possible.

A copy of an unfilled prescription for pain medication obtained from Erwin-Sheppard’s mother bears the signature of a doctor at Planned Parenthood in Kalamazoo, but the clinic, citing privacy laws, would not confirm the woman had ever been a patient there . . .

[T]he redacted death certificate received shows Erwin-Sheppard was pronounced dead shortly before 1 a.m. July 4 of “complications of intrauterine pregnancy, including (with lay translations in parentheses) pulmonary emboli (blood clots in the lungs) related to uterine vein thrombosis (blood clot in the uterus) and uterine perforation status post early vacuum aspiration (abortion) and intrauterine contraceptive device placement (placement of an IUD).”

Nevada



Las Vegas Hospital Sued After Woman Dies from “Septic Abortion” in 2022.
by Gregg Haas, *KLAS Channel 8 News*, September 22, 2023

Excerpt:

Alyona Dixon of Pahrump died Sept. 28, 2022, six days after she sought help at a Planned Parenthood clinic for a medically induced abortion. Four days later, she went to St. Rose Dominican’s Blue Diamond campus with “sharp” lower abdominal pain that started the previous day, according to details provided in the lawsuit.

After a few tests — notably without a pelvic exam or a consultation with a gynecologist — Dixon was discharged on the afternoon of Sept. 26, the lawsuit says. She was told to follow up with a gynecologist, and go to the emergency room right away if her symptoms worsened or changed.

Dixon went to the emergency room at Desert View Hospital in Pahrump after 11 p.m. on Sept. 27, and also reported vaginal bleeding. A doctor there described her condition: “abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea, severe dehydration, acute renal failure, leukocytosis, sepsis, lactic acidosis, hypokalemia, sinus tachycardia, metabolic acidoses, pulseless electrical activity, respiratory failure.” After treating Dixon and seeing her symptoms improve, the doctor got approval to transfer her to a Clark County hospital.

But her condition quickly deteriorated an hour later and she remained at Desert View, according to an attorney.

As her heart rate elevated to 150 and she had trouble breathing, doctors worked to intubate and sedate her. She vomited during the process and her heart stopped. Attempts to resuscitate her failed, and she was declared dead at 5:32 a.m. on Sept. 28. The Clark County Coroner’s Office gave her cause of death as “complications from septic abortion.” . . .

When she went to Planned Parenthood, Dixon was “determined to be an appropriate candidate for elective termination of pregnancy with mifepristone followed 24-48 hours later by misoprostol intravaginally,” according to Atallah’s letter. But it does not say she was given the treatment. “She was appropriately counseled about the risks of the medical abortion and was discharged home,” the letter says.

New York

Manhattan

Owens

The full Complaint and settlement document can be found at:

www.problemsatplannedparenthood.org/new-york-city

Excerpt:

16. In April, 2009, 17-year-old . . . was a senior in high school in excellent health, looking forward to graduating and attending college in the fall.

17. On the morning of April 11, 2009 [she] went to Defendant Planned Parenthood for a scheduled termination of pregnancy . . .

18. . . . Defendant [doctor] . . . noted in his operative report that the procedure was “uneventful” and that there were no complications.

19. According to Defendant Planned Parenthood’s own records, however, [she] was observed experiencing labored breathing immediately after the procedure ended at 9:20 A.M. Her oxygen saturation levels were also reported to have dropped.

20. Despite [her] apparent deteriorating condition, the Doctor and Nurse Anesthetist and Planned Parenthood failed to properly monitor her or to administer the proper treatment and failed to make timely contact with EMS until 9:43 A.M. In fact, due to the delay in recognizing and treating [her] condition, [she] was not transported to St. Vincent’s Medical Center . . . until 10:05 A.M.

21. Although St. Vincent’s was able to stabilize [her], Defendants’ delay and the resultant hypoxia caused [her] to suffer severe irreversible injury. She required a new respirator thereafter and was unable to leave the hospital. [She] died at St. Vincent’s five months later on September 8, 2009.

New York

Manhattan

Buchanan

The 2017 Complaint, letter informing of death, and new Complaint can be found at:

www.problemsatplannedparenthood.org/new-york-city

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Excerpt from original Complaint

29. That the foregoing treatment [on May 12, 2015] and management of the plaintiff . . . by the defendant . . . was performed in a careless, negligent, and improper manner . . . including the failure to properly evaluate or diagnose cervical bleeding and cancer thereby causing the plaintiff . . . to sustain severe injuries and dangers . . .
30. That by reason of the foregoing, the plaintiff . . . was severely injured and damaged, rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled, sustained severe nervous shock and mental anguish, great physical pain and emotional upset, some of which injuries are permanent in nature and duration, and plaintiff will be permanently caused to suffer pain, inconvenience, and other effects of just injuries; plaintiff incurred and in the future will necessarily incur further health care facility and/or medical expenses in an effort to be cured of said injuries; and plaintiff has suffered and in the future will necessarily suffer additional loss of time and earnings from employment . . .

Content of Letter, March 19, 2018

Please be advised that plaintiff . . . died on February 24, 2018. We request that action be marked Stayed. Our Office will commence proceedings to appoint an administrator of the estate.

Excerpt from subsequent Complaint

29. That the foregoing treatment and management of the decedent . . . was performed in a careless, negligent, and improper manner . . . including the failure to properly evaluate or to diagnose cervical bleeding and cancer thereby causing the decedent . . . to sustain severe injuries and damages and death . . .
35. That by reason of the foregoing, the decedent . . . was severely injured and damaged, rendered sick, sore, lame and disabled, sustained severe nervous shock and mental anguish, great physical pain and emotional upset, up to the moment of her death.