

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Wrongful Death Lawsuit Filed Against UNM, Southwestern Women's Options Abortion Clinic

Clinic Instructs Women Against Seeking Emergency Room Treatment in Botched Abortions

- Co-founder of the National Abortion Federation named in lawsuit
- Septic infection from abortion kills healthy 23-year-old woman
- Patients instructed to not go to the emergency room

Albuquerque, NM -- A wrongful death [lawsuit](#) has been filed on behalf of the estate of 23-year-old Keisha Atkins who died during a botched late-term abortion last year. Atkins died after being transferred to the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) while experiencing complications from a septic infection during an elective late-term abortion performed by Southwestern Women's Options (SWO) in Albuquerque which is owned and operated by abortionist Curtis Boyd. Atkins was six months pregnant.



The lawsuit seeks damages against both UNM and SWO for medical malpractice, wrongful death, and civil conspiracy. SWO is charged with violating the New Mexico Unfair Trade Practices Act for [instructing](#) women "do not go to the emergency room", but rather, contact the clinic's answering service for a medical emergency.

Six abortionists including SWO's doctors Carmen Landau, Shannon Carr and Curtis Boyd are named along with UNM abortion doctors Lily Bayat, Brenda Pareda and Lisa Hofler. Bayat and Pareda are named specifically for their negligent referral of Atkins from the UNM Center for Reproductive Health abortion clinic to SWO. Dr. Lisa Hofler, Assistant Clinic Director of the UNM Center for Reproductive Health clinic is also named in the lawsuit for delaying life-saving medical treatment for Atkins in the emergency room, once transferred to UNMH from SWO.

Albuquerque attorney, Michael Seibel and attorney Justin K. Hall, a former Academic All-American football player for UNM, filed the lawsuit on behalf of Atkins' mother Tina Atkins and her sister Nicole

Atkins. The pathologist, Dr. Lauren Dvorscak of the UNM Office of the Medical Investigator is also named in the lawsuit for civil conspiracy in the cover-up of Atkins' cause of death.

As previously reported in emails obtained by Atkins' attorneys, UNMH doctors Trenton Wray MD and Gary Hatch, who treated Atkins, raised serious concerns about the accuracy of the autopsy report by Dr. Lauren Dvorscak. Dvorscak's report attributed Atkins' death to natural causes due to pregnancy, rather than the botched abortion.

Atkins' estate also charges that SWO did not fully disclose risks and potential complications of the late-term abortion. According to an American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology [study](#), late-term abortions carry a 91 times greater risk of death than first trimester abortions.

"Keisha Atkins' medical treatment was a series of negligence and malpractice which ultimately led to her untimely death-these actions were compounded by the fact that she was instructed to not seek emergency room care by Southwestern doctors," said Atkins' attorney Michael Seibel. "We also have reason to believe that these parties conspired with UNM's Medical Investigator to conceal the cause of death from the abortion in order to protect each other's interests and long-standing relationships."

"What kind of clinic instructs patients not to contact the hospital for an emergency, but rather to call an answering service in the middle of a life-threatening septic abortion?" asked Elisa Martinez, spokesperson for the Atkins estate. "This is not medicine, this is a reckless public health crisis driven by abortionist Curtis Boyd, a co-founder of the National Abortion Federation who puts his bottom line and ideology above his patients."

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The New Mexico Alliance for Life is a nonpartisan organization focused on changing state and local laws by empowering women with better and informed choices when facing unplanned or difficult pregnancies and advocating for better protections for women and unborn children from an unsafe abortion industry. For more information visit www.nmallianceforlife.org