

Florida Suspends License of Doctor At Abortion Clinic

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 5 (AP) — Florida has suspended the license of the doctor who replaced the one who was shot to death at a Pensacola abortion clinic last year.

The Agency of Health Care Administration issued an emergency order on Friday afternoon against the license of Dr. Steven Chase Brigham, whose New York license was revoked last year.

"This shuts him down right now," said Ed Towey, an agency spokesman in Tallahassee. "This emergency order instantly stops him from practicing."

The doctor was served notice on Friday at Pensacola Regional Airport as he was leaving this Florida Panhandle city.

Dr. Brigham replaced Dr. John Bayard Britton, who died along with a volunteer escort in a hail of shotgun fire last July 29 outside the clinic, the Pensacola Ladies Center.

Authorities in New York accused Dr. Brigham of injuring two abortion patients and offering to perform an illegal third-trimester abortion. The New York case prompted action against him in four other states before Florida took action.

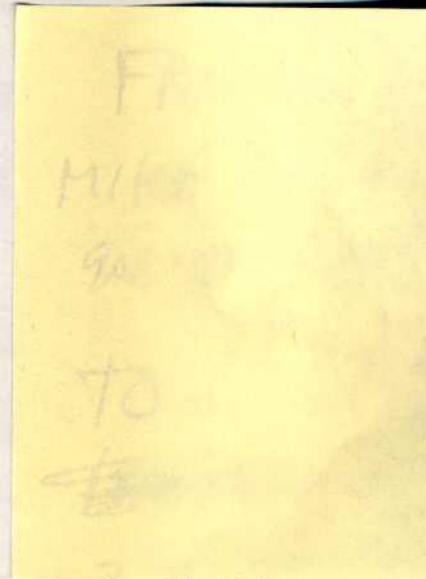
Dr. Brigham voluntarily stopped practicing in Pennsylvania, allowed his Georgia license to expire and agreed to stop practicing in New Jersey until an administrative law judge ruled on his competency. California also has a case pending.

Florida's action is a victory for Mike and Vicky Conroy, anti-abortion protesters in Pensacola who have been campaigning for several months to have Dr. Brigham's license revoked.

Dr. Brigham has an unlisted telephone number and could not be reached for comment. He has 14 days to request a hearing before the Florida Board of Medicine to challenge the suspension.

In December, workers at the Pensacola Ladies Center told Florida Board of Medicine officials that Dr. Brigham was no longer practicing there, but the Conroys disputed that report.

Brigham



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