

Suit Filed Against Pro-Life Groups With PM-Abortion Rdp Bjt

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LOS ANGELES (AP) — A physician who claims anti-abortion pickets have cost him money and invaded the privacy of patients has filed a \$3 million lawsuit against three pro-life groups he says have demonstrated at his clinics.

Dr. Morton W. Barke, who has clinics where abortions are performed in the Encino area of Los Angeles and in suburban Inglewood and Lawndale, filed the Los Angeles County Superior Court suit on Friday.

The suit names Right to Life League of Southern California, Pro-Life, Inc., and Crusade for Life. It claims that the demonstrators picketing the Encino and Lawndale facilities have inflicted emotional distress on patients and staff, that they block entrances and trespass and cause monetary losses.

The executive director of the Right to Life League of Southern California denied Friday night that his group was involved in picketing or demonstrations at the clinics.

"We don't have anything to do with picketing," Frank Forve said in a telephone interview. However, he added, the group has a mailing list of 15,000 people who are free to do as they please.

He declined further comment on the suit, saying he had not seen it yet. His group operates 20 pregnancy counseling centers and hotlines for people considering abortions, he said.

Barke's suit said the groups have demonstrated at his clinics since last June, use bullhorns to shout at patients and employees and carry placards saying abortion is murder.

"We respect their First Amendment rights to communicate with the public," said Barke's attorney, Roger Diamond. "We're primarily concerned about trespassing and their use of sound-amplifying equipment to disturb patients."

Although the suit states that abortion clinics nationwide "have been terrorized" over the past six months by bombings and threats, Diamond said he knew of no direct threats against the doctor's clinics.

A similar suit filed by Barke in 1972 was settled with a court order against picketing at his Inglewood clinic, Diamond said.

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