

## [RealChoice](#)

Preparing for a Post-*Roe* America

Friday, February 24, 2006

### **Anniversary: Eastern Women's Center Leaves Woman in Fatal Coma**

Original article found online at: [http://realchoice.blogspot.com/2006/02/anniversary-eastern-womens-center\\_24.html](http://realchoice.blogspot.com/2006/02/anniversary-eastern-womens-center_24.html)

A suit was filed on behalf of [Venus Ortiz](#), age 23. The following are the allegations raised in the suit against [National Abortion Federation](#) member [Eastern Women's Center](#).

#### **What Is a NAF Clinic?**

NAF is the professional association of abortion providers in North America. Our member clinics care for more than half the women who choose abortion each year in the United States. In order to become a member, a clinic must complete a rigorous application process. Member clinics have agreed to comply with our standards for quality and care, updated annually in our *Clinical Policy Guidelines*, which set the evidence-based standards for abortion care in North America. NAF periodically conducts site visits to confirm that our clinics are in compliance with our guidelines.

Evidence indicated that the abortion of Venus' approximately 15-week pregnancy was performed by a [Dr. Leiber](#). The abortion took place at Eastern February 24, 1993.

The suit alleged that there was negligence in administering [anesthesia](#) to Venus, and failure to establish an airway. Brevital, fentanyl, and midazolam were administered in dosages and manners contrary to standards of practice, causing Venus to suffer a synergistic reaction.

Eastern's staff failed to promptly diagnose and attend to cardio-pulmonary arrest. Eastern's notes of 5:35 PM indicate '2:35 PM end of surgery ... we noticed patient's ashen color and the pulse oximeter tracing and digital readout were gone from the monitor.' Emergency medical services were called. The reading of Venus' blood pressure at that time was 90/55; four minutes later it was recorded as being 146/62.

Venus was transported by ambulance to a hospital, accompanied by Dr. Cyrus, Dr. Goodman, and/or Dr. Jeffrey P. Moskowitz. However, the damage had already been done. Venus was left in permanent need of respirator, with profound brain damage. Venus remained in a coma/vegetative

state. She was hospitalized a little over five months before being transferred to permanent nursing home care.

To further underscore Eastern's neglect of patients' needs, the suit also noted that although this young woman was undergoing her 4th abortion, Venus had not been referred to a social worker.

Venus remained in a permanent vegetative state for the remainder of her life. She died in New York on December 16, 1998 at the age of 29.

Two other patients, [Dawn Ravenelle](#) and [Dawn Mack](#), also died of complications of abortions done at Eastern Women's Center.

Other women who lingered in a coma or vegetative state before dying from abortion complications include:

- [Delores Smith](#), whose fifteenth birthday came and went during the four months she remained comatose
- [Catherine Pierce](#), who left an 11-year-old daughter motherless after seven months in a coma
- [Deborah Ann Lozinski](#), who died after two months in a coma
- [Suzanne Logan](#), who spent four months in a coma before awakening, paralyzed and unable to speak; she remained in a nursing home for three years until her death
- [Shelby Moran](#), mother of five, who languished in a nursing home for over twenty years while her five children grew up without her

For more abortion deaths, visit the [Cemetery of Choice](#):

**CEMETERY OF CHOICE**