

CEMETERY OF CHOICE

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Shelby Moran

SUMMARY: Shelby Moran languished in a nursing home for over 20 years after suffering catastrophic brain damage during an abortion performed in January of 1978 by John Barton at Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, IL. Shelby died on September 16, 1999 at the age of 60.

A lawsuit filed on behalf of Shelby Jean Anderson Moran, then a 39-year-old mother of five, alleged that she was given Prostaglandin F2 Alpha for a [safe, legal abortion](#) at [Illinois Masonic Medical Center](#) in January of 1978. She was about four months pregnant.

Immediately after the drug was injected, Shelby experienced grossly abnormal elevation of her blood pressure. The abortionist, Dr. John J. Barton, thought that the elevation would be transient, and left the facility.

Half an hour later, Shelby went into cardiopulmonary arrest. She suffered brain damage due to lack of oxygen, causing dementia and speech aphasia.

Shelby, who had previously managed the Oak Lawn Elks Club, was no longer able to care for herself, much less her five children. She required 24-hour care in a nursing home until her death at Hazel Crest on September 16, 1999.

Her family was awarded \$9.5 million on her behalf.

Sources:

- "Brain-damaged woman awarded \$9.5 million," *Chicago Sun-Times*, April 15, 1989
- "Award granted in abortion case," *Easton (MD) Star-Democrat*, April 17, 1989
- Cook County Circuit Court, Law Division, Case No. 80-L-1539;
- Illinois Appellate Court Nos. 1-89-2165, 1-89-2244, 1-89-2359;
- Social Security Death Index

EASTON (MD) STAR-DEMOCRAT, APRIL 17, 1989

Award granted in abortion case

CHICAGO (AP) — A jury awarded \$9.5 million to a woman who was left severely brain damaged after undergoing an abortion at Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

Shelby Moran, 50, who now lives in a suburban nursing home, underwent the abortion in January 1978.

The mother of five and former manager of the Oak Lawn Elks Club suffered brain damage as a result of a reaction to a drug used in the abortion, the Cook County jury decided Friday. The drug caused her heart to stop, which cut off oxygen to her brain, her attorney said.

The court assessed the damages among the hospital; Dr. John J. Barton, chief of obstetrics and gynecology; and Upjohn Co., maker of the drug.

She was given the drug while about four months' pregnant after an unsuccessful tubal ligation.