

Abortion doctor accused of working without license

Original document found online at:

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The Richmond Times Dispatch reported on April 19, 2002, in an article entitled, Abortion doctor charged, that the Virginia Board of Medicine had suspended the medical license of abortionist **Rodger A. Fraser** for allegedly mishandling an abortion at the Commonwealth Women's Clinic in Falls Church. In a 2002, Department of Health Professions disciplinary action against the abortionist, the board investigated a botched abortion Fraser performed on a patient in 2001. Fraser originally estimated the fetus to be 10-11 weeks gestation, but instead the baby was 18 -20 weeks.

The paper noted that the woman's uterus was perforated multiple times, which damaged her bowel and caused her to hemorrhage, according to state documents. She had to be rushed to INOVA Fairfax Hospital for emergency treatment. The complaint further alleged that Fraser did not explain to the patient, who didn't speak English, why he was sending her to the hospital, and "abandoned [her] when he sent her to the hospital with insufficient documentation or guidance explaining [the patient's] condition."

Days after his suspension the abortionist was allegedly paid \$1,440 for performing 23 procedures - 22 of them abortions - at the Capital Women's Health Clinic at 1511 Starling Drive in western Henrico, according to testimony in Henrico General District Court. Three witnesses testified that Fraser was the only doctor working at the clinic on Feb. 9, and that 23 patients had procedures done that day. Sylvia Winckler, a nurse employed by the clinic, confirmed through testimony that Fraser was the only doctor on duty that day and that she assisted him with 10 of the 22 abortions he performed. The abortionist went before a grand jury that recommended a trial be set for four counts of practicing medicine without a license.

A Virginia Board of Medicine newsletter, dated winter of 2002, showed that Rodger Alvin Fraser of Glen Allen, VA, had to surrender his license for permanent revocation based on patient care issues, providing incorrect information on his practitioner profile and practicing without a license after being summarily suspended by Order of the Board dated February 8, 2002.