The Facts About Choice

Women's Deaths from "Safe" Abortions

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Brenda Banks

35-year-old Brenda had a 13-week abortion at Hillcrest Women's Surgi-Center in Washington DC on September 30, 1989. She went into shock after the abortion because of blood loss, so an ambulance was called. Despite being given a total hysterectomy and 20 units of red blood cells, she died the following afternoon. Her uterus had been perforated during the abortion and several major blood vessels had been lacerated or cut in two. When Banks family tried to sue the clinic and the abortion doctor, Llewelyn Crooks, they were unable to collect money from either, since Crook's insurer was insolvent and the clinic carried no malpractice insurance. (District of Columbia Superior Court; "Woman died after abortion at Hillcrest in D.C.," Defend Life, March-April 2001)1