



# Underground Abortions: Beware of Alarming New Trend!

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"YouTube Abortionist" Rick Van Thiel, during a jailhouse interview where he confesses to conducting an illegal abortion scheme.

## **An Operation Rescue Special Report**

By Cheryl Sullenger

Las Vegas, NV — He's known as the "YouTube Abortionist." A 53-year old career criminal from Las Vegas, Nevada, has been indicted by a grand jury for illegal abortions and sex crimes that should keep him behind bars — where he belongs — for a very long time.

Rick Van Thiel was arrested and jailed in September, 2015, for conducting abortions and other quack medical treatments out of a grimy trailer in his junk-cluttered back yard. He was never formally educated, trained, or licensed in the field of medicine. His background was instead that of a pornographic movie star/maker and inventor of sex toys.

So how did Van Thiel get into the abortion business? He told a [news reporter](#) that he learned to do abortions watching videos on YouTube.com.

A Clark County grand jury issued [30 felony indictments](#) against Van Thiel in June 2016, including:

- 19 counts of engaging as a medical physician without a license.
- 6 counts of sexual assault resulting in substantial bodily harm.
- 2 counts of sexual assault.
- 2 counts performance of a health care procedure resulting in substantial bodily harm.
- 1 count child abuse, neglect, or endangerment.

In addition, Van Thiel, already a [five-time convicted felon](#) who has been barred from gun ownership, faces three federal firearms charges and has been transferred into federal detention. Serving as his own attorney, he has flooded the court with a flurry of motions that are currently delaying his trial. Thankfully, Van Thiel remains in custody.



This camper, dubbed the "Trailer of Terror" by [ktnv.com](#), was located in the rear lot of Rick Van Thiel's Las Vegas home. This is where he conducted illegal abortions and other dubious medical procedures. (Photo credit: [ktnv.com](#))

Van Thiel was an opportunist. Like many charlatans before him, he saw that offering cut-rate abortions and quack "holistic" cures to hookers and other vulnerable women was a viable means to quick cash. He lured customers through several seedy "adult" websites and by word of mouth.

Given the evidence against him and his [public jailhouse confession](#), it is almost assured that Van Thiel will be convicted in both state and federal court and will remain incarcerated for many years to come.

But, however bizarre as it may be, Van Thiel's criminal abortion enterprise is not an aberration. *In fact, it might be the harbinger of a disturbing new trend.*

Within weeks of Van Thiel's apprehension last fall, two others were arrested for conducting illegal underground abortions. Yet these men are not amateurs. Michael Arthur Roth and James Scott Pendergraft IV are known abortionists that worked for or own licensed abortion facilities in two states.