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WIFE: HUSBAND TIED ME UP, ABORTED MY BABY

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Police have arrested a Fort Lauderdale abortion clinic physician after his wife reported that he handcuffed her, strapped her to a table in their home and performed an abortion against her will.

Dr. Theodor Lehrer, 52, was arrested on sexual battery charges late Wednesday at his condominium at 936 Intracoastal Dr., Fort Lauderdale police spokesman Ott Cefkin said.

In court documents filed Thursday, Lehrer's 37-year-old wife told authorities that he performed the abortion on her Sunday night at the couple's condominium. He was angry because she refused to have sex with him because of sickness caused by her 11- to-14-week pregnancy, she told authorities.

After the operation, she left the apartment and called police. She was hospitalized for two days, during which time a doctor examined her and determined that she had been pregnant and that an abortion had been performed, authorities said.

Lehrer posted \$50,000 bond and left the Broward County Jail about 7:40 p.m. Thursday. He kept his head down and shielded his face with his hands. When asked whether he had any comment on the charges, Lehrer did not reply.

In an affidavit filed Thursday, Lehrer's wife gave authorities this account of the incident:

Sunday night she was reading in a spare bedroom about 11:20 p.m. when Lehrer came into the room, handcuffed her, dragged her into the bathroom and strapped her to a portable table, she said.

She pleaded with him not to rape her, she said. He placed a gauze pad over her mouth but removed it when she feared she would suffocate, she said.

Lehrer then had sex with her, she said. She thought the incident was over, but he then performed the abortion.

She said that her husband told her he was giving her a local anesthetic but that she felt no injection, only excruciating pain.

She told authorities that during the procedure she recalled signing a prenuptial agreement that allowed her \$5,000 if the couple divorced with no children. If they had children, she would receive alimony, child support and some properties, she said.

She pleaded with her husband to stop, saying she would sign anything, but he said he had to do it, she told authorities.

At one point, she broke free of tape holding her to the floor. Lehrer threatened her with a syringe, saying he would inject her with a sedative, knowing that she had bad reactions to sedatives, she said.

In court documents, Lehrer told authorities that he tied his wife's hands up and had sex with her, but he denied performing an abortion.

Lehrer works at All Women's Clinic, 2100 E. Commercial Blvd., which offers abortions. The clinic, which has been a target of harassment by anti-abortion activists, was sprayed with gunfire in 1984.

The clinic's answering service said the facility was closed Thursday.

Illustration:photo: Theodor Lehrer (r)