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## MEDICAL DOCTOR INDICTED ON MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES; DEFENDANT ALLEGEDLY CAUSED DEATH OF PATIENT WHO UNDERWENT ABORTION PROCEDURE

Defendant Faces Up To 15 Years In Prison If Convicted

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens County grand jury has indicted a Flushing medical doctor on a charge of second-degree manslaughter for allegedly recklessly causing the death of a 30-year-old woman, in part, by perforating her uterine wall and causing a disruption and transection of the uterine artery during a surgical procedure on July 9, 2016, at the health facility where he practices and then failing to provide appropriate and timely medical attention.

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Robert Rho, 52, of Lake Success, New York. Dr. Rho, who maintains a medical practice at Liberty Women's Health Care of Queens, located at 37-01 Main Street, Flushing, is presently awaiting arraignment in Queens County Supreme Court on a one-count indictment, charging him with second-degree manslaughter. If convicted, Dr. Rho faces up to 15 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the victim, having made an appointment to have an abortion performed at Liberty Women's Health of Queens, arrived with her sister at the Flushing facility on July 9, 2016. It is alleged that during the course of the surgical procedure, which took place at shortly after 1 p.m., Dr. Rho caused a laceration of the victim's cervix, a perforation of the uterine wall and a disruption and transection of the uterine artery and then failed to provide her with appropriate and timely medical attention.

It is additionally alleged that, while in the recovery room, the victim was bleeding profusely and was required to undergo a second procedure at the health facility. Thereafter, the victim was allegedly allowed to leave the facility despite having collapsed and appearing disoriented. On the drive to her sister's Bronx residence the victim allegedly fell off the backseat and became unresponsive. She was transported to a Bronx hospital where she was treated for vaginal bleeding and given six units of blood. The victim was pronounced dead that night.

Assistant District Attorney Brad A. Leventhal, Chief of the District Attorney Brown's Homicide Trials Bureau, is prosecuting the case, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Kanella Georgopoulos, off the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty