

ADVERTISEMENT

More Than 2,200 Preserved Fetuses Found at Property of Dead Doctor, Officials Say

There was no evidence that medical procedures were performed at the Illinois property where the remains were found, the authorities said.



The family of Dr. Ulrich Klopfer, who died on Sept. 3, found 2,246 medically preserved fetal remains on his property, officials said. WNDU-TV South Bend

By **Derrick Bryson Taylor**

Sept. 14, 2019

The family of a doctor in Illinois discovered more than 2,200 medically preserved fetuses at his property a little over a week after his death, the authorities said.

The Will County Coroner's Office received a call on Thursday from a lawyer representing the family of the doctor, Ulrich Klopfer, who died on Sept. 3, the Will County Sheriff's Office said in [a news release](#).

While going through Dr. Klopfer's property, the family found 2,246 medically preserved fetal remains, the release said. At the request of the family, the lawyer asked the coroner's office to remove the remains.

It was unclear how the fetuses were preserved, where on Dr. Klopfer's property they were discovered or where exactly the property was. Public records showed the doctor owned a home in Crete, Ill., a village about 35 miles south of Chicago. The release only said officials responded to "an address in unincorporated Will County."

ADVERTISEMENT

The coroner's office took possession of the remains. The release said that the doctor's family was cooperating with the investigation and that there was no evidence that any medical procedures took place at the property.

A call to the Will County Sheriff's Office was not returned and attempts to reach the Will County Coroner's Office were unsuccessful. A person who answered the phone at Dr. Klopfer's residence declined to comment.

Unlock more free articles.
Create an account or log in

[Dr. Klopfer's license history](#) revealed that he was an [osteopathic physician](#) whose license was suspended for failure to keep abreast of current professional theory or practice, according to Indiana state records.

He had a practice in South Bend, Ind. and was also licensed to practice in Illinois but his license to practice there expired in the 1990s, according to state records.

State records showed that Dr. Klopfer had had licenses in Fort Wayne and Gary, Ind., where he performed abortions, [The Journal Gazette](#) of Fort Wayne reported. It described him as "likely Indiana's most prolific abortion doctor in history with numbers going into the tens of thousands of procedures in multiple counties over several decades."

ADVERTISEMENT

The Women's Pavilion, the abortion clinic where Dr. Klopfer worked, closed in 2016, [The South Bend Tribune reported](#). Dr. Klopfer stopped performing abortions in November 2015, the site said.

The Journal Gazette said that Dr. Klopfer received a six-month license suspension in 2016 after a hearing with the Indiana Medical Licensing Board. He was found guilty of five of the nine charges he faced.

During the hearing, Dr. Klopfer told the story of an abortion he performed at a hospital on a 10-year-old girl who had been raped by her uncle.

Dr. Klopfer had not told the authorities and had let the girl return home with her parents, who chose not to seek charges against the relative, The Journal Gazette reported.

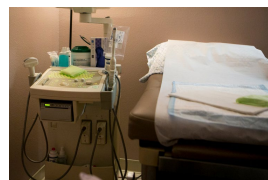
Dr. Klopfer also told the board that in his 43 years of practice, he had never lost a patient.

“Women get pregnant, men don’t,” Dr. Klopfer said during the hearing. “We need to respect women making a decision that they think is best in their life. I’m not here to dictate to anybody. I’m not here to judge anybody.”

Read more

Texas Will Require Burial of Aborted Fetuses

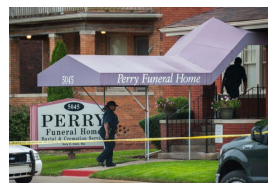
Nov. 30, 2016



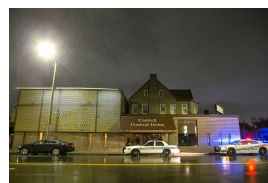
Infant and Fetus Remains Are Found at Ex-Home for Unwed Mothers in Ireland March 3, 2017



Remains of 63 Fetuses and Infants Found at Second Detroit Funeral Home Oct. 20, 2018



Bodies of 11 Babies Found Hidden in Shuttered Detroit Funeral Home Oct. 13, 2018



A version of this article appears in print on Sept. 14, 2019, Section A, Page 22 of the New York edition with the headline: 2,246 Preserved Fetuses Found on Dead Doctor’s Property. [Order Reprints](#) | [Today’s Paper](#) | [Subscribe](#)

More in U.S. News



Erin Schaff/The New York Times
Joe Biden: Who He Is and What He Stands For
Sept. 10



Michael Kirby Smith for The New York Times
Cornell's Medical School Offers Full Rides in Battle Over Student Debt
53m ago



Associated Press
Juanita Abernathy, a Force in the Civil Rights Movement, Dies at 88
Sept. 13



Erin Schaff for The New York Times
Calls for Kavanaugh's Impeachment Come Amid New Misconduct Allegations
Sept. 15



Dan Kraker/Minnesota Public Radio, via Associated Press
Minnesota Police Arrest Man in Synagogue Fire
Sept. 15
Editors' Picks



Ramona Rosales for The New York Times
Demi Moore Lets Her Guard Down
Sept. 12



Amanda Lucier for The New York Times
We're Barely Listening to the U.S.'s Most Dangerous Volcanoes
Sept. 9



Gabby Jones for The New York Times
What Draws Atheists, Jews and Catholics to a Presbyterian Church
Sept. 6

Most Popular

Counter Service Tipping: Who Gives?

The Best Obituary Ever, and the Wacky Funeral That Followed

The Most Instagrammable Neighborhood in America, Before It Was Cool

Opinion: Joe Biden Is Problematic

Opinion: Let's Debate: Are Democrats Doomed?

Brett Kavanaugh Fit In With the Privileged Kids. She Did Not.

Ric Ocasek, New Wave Rock Visionary and Cars Co-Founder, Is Dead

Opinion: Where There Are Fish in the Tap Water and Women's Uteruses Fall Out

You Will Love This Sheet-Pan Dinner

Vaping Bad: Were 2 Wisconsin Brothers the Walter Whites of THC Oils?

ADVERTISEMENT

Access more of The Times by creating a free account or logging in.
Access more for free.



Create a free account or log in to
access more of The Times.

CONTINUE

[Go to Home Page »](#)

NEWS

OPINION

ARTS

LIVING

LISTINGS & MORE

© 2019 The New York Times Company

[Contact Us](#) [Work with us](#) [Advertise](#) [T Brand Studio](#) [Your Ad Choices](#) [Privacy](#) [Terms of Service](#) [Terms of Sale](#) [Site Map](#) [Help](#) [Subscriptions](#)