

NAF abortion clinic abortionist leaves fetus' head inside the woman's uterus, patient sues



West Virginia abortionist [Rodney Lee Stephens](#) forced a 26-year-old woman to go through with an abortion she did not want and failed to anesthetize her, putting her through excruciating pain, according to a lawsuit filed in Kanawha County Circuit Court.


After the abortion the woman's pain only escalated until doctors discovered the abortionist had left part of the baby's body, including the skull, inside her womb.

Itai Gravely states in her lawsuit that she repeatedly told employees at the Women's Health Center of West Virginia, Inc., in Charleston, last April 19 that she wanted to keep her baby. Dr. Stephens allegedly ordered employees at the Women's Health Center to restrain her, and they held her down until he had completed the abortion.

According to her [legal complaint](#), Stephens did not examine "or even take a moment to greet" Gravely after the abortion. Her father and cousin, who accompanied her, had to support her so she could walk.

Employees sent her out the back exit after the procedure, to keep other patients from seeing her pain, she states.

The next day, doctors at the Charleston Area Medical Center – where Dr. Stephens also practices – discovered the abortionist had left fetal remains, including her baby’s skull, inside her womb.



West Virginia Board of Medicine

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Search Results:	Licensee Detailed Information
Full Name:	RODNEY LEE STEPHENS, M.D.
Born:	1945
Preferred Mailing Address:	1407 WOODMERE DRIVE CHARLESTON, WV 25314
Primary Work Location:	WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER OF WEST VIRGINIA, INC 510 WASHINGTON STREET CHARLESTON, WV 25302-2036 (KANAWHA CO.)

WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER OF WEST VIRGINIA

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*We respect a woman's dignity,
right to reproductive choice,
personal values and
confidentiality.*

The Women's Health Center of West Virginia is a non-profit health center providing the full range of women's reproductive health services and gynecological care ranging from family planning and abortion to pregnancy support services.

The Center is distinguished by its reputation for quality reproductive health care provided by friendly, compassionate medical professionals who respect patient values and embrace the right of women to control their reproductive lives.

Our patients receive medically accurate reproductive health education and confidential medical care in an environment respectful of their personal values and choices. Our goal is to ensure that all women have access to care, regardless of income.

Women's Health Center of West Virginia is a proud member of the [National Abortion Federation](#), the organization that represents providers of quality abortion care.

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Read [more](#) and shows him practicing at : **WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER OF WEST VIRGINIA**, INC 510 WASHINGTON STREET CHARLESTON, WV 25302-2036 (KANAWHA CO.) which is a **National Abortion Federation Clinic** (NAF)

[The West Virginia Medical Board lists 9 malpractice cases against him:](#)

Malpractice Records for RODNEY LEE STEPHENS

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Settlement

Loss Date: 4/27/1990

Action Date: 5/3/1991

Amount: \$8,485

Insurance Company: CNA

File Number: 42-118042F3

Notes: NONE

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Settlement

Loss Date: 7/28/1988

Action Date: 10/11/1993

Amount: \$25,000

Insurance Company: PIE MUTUAL

File Number: 64926

Adjudating Body: LOGAN CTY CIRCUIT COURT, WV

Case Number of Adjudating Body: 91 C 609

Notes: NONE

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Dismissal

Loss Date: 11/16/1988

Action Date: 4/13/1993

Amount: 0

Insurance Company: PIE MUTUAL

File Number: 65794

Adjudating Body: LOGAN CTY CIRCUIT COURT, WV

Case Number of Adjudating Body: 90 C 782

Notes: NONE

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Settlement

Loss Date: 1/8/1980

Action Date: 6/2/1995

Amount: \$7,500

Insurance Company: CHUBB-PACIFIC INDEMNITY INS CO

File Number: NO FILE NUMBER LISTED

Notes: PHYSICIAN REPORTED-1995

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Settlement

Loss Date: 2/8/1980

Action Date: 6/2/1995

Amount: \$50,000

Insurance Company: CHUBB-PACIFIC INDEMITY INS CO

File Number: NO FILE NUMBER LISTED

Notes: PHYSICIAN REPORTED-1995

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Settlement

Loss Date: 4/12/1977

Action Date: 6/2/1995

Amount: \$30,000

Insurance Company: CHUBB-PACIFIC INDEMITY INS CO

File Number: NO FILE NUMBER LISTED

Notes: PHYSICIAN REPORTED-1995

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Settlement

Loss Date: 4/4/1990

Action Date: 4/4/1996

Amount: \$150,000

Insurance Company: PIE MUTUAL

File Number: 69260

Adjudating Body: LOGAN CTY CIRCUIT COURT, WV

Case Number of Adjudating Body: 92 C 398

Notes: NONE

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Settlement

Loss Date: 10/5/1998

Action Date: 8/22/2001

Amount: \$115,000

Insurance Company: MEDICAL ASSURANCE OF WV
File Number: 100237
Adjudating Body: KANAWHA CTY CIRCUIT COURT
Case Number of Adjudating Body: CA 99-C-2257
Notes: ORDER ON FILE

Malpractice Record: Case Detail

Action Type: Dismissal
Loss Date: 4/5/2000
Action Date: 5/16/2007
Amount: 0
Insurance Company: WOODBROOK CASUALTY
File Number: 113637
Adjudating Body: KANAWHA CTY CIRCUIT COURT
Case Number of Adjudating Body: 01-C-3552
Notes: NONE

According to the [Herald-Dispatch](#) the Family Policy Council President Jeremy Dys said Gravely had been going to the clinic for birth control, returned when she unexpectedly became pregnant and was persuaded by clinic counselors to have an abortion in April 2012. The pregnancy was near the end of the first trimester; estimates ranged from 9 to 13 weeks.

According to The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a fetus tends to be about 2 inches in length at 9 weeks and about 3 1/2 inches long at 12 weeks. Gravely was given a sedative but wanted to stop the procedure because she started having severe abdominal pain. The lawsuit said Stephens ignored her instructions and directed other employees to have her physically restrained.

"When a patient tells the doctor 'stop' and the doctor continues, that's egregious," Dys said. "She has revoked her

informed consent. They did not regain her informed consent, and they proceeded with the procedure anyway with her physically restrained on the table. That's unacceptable."

Afterward, there was no record of Stephens checking on Gravely in the recovery room, and she was asked to leave through a back door with the assistance of her father and a cousin, Dys said.

When her pain didn't subside, Gravely called the next day but was unable to transport herself to the clinic. Instead, she was taken by ambulance to a Charleston hospital, where an exam revealed the fetus' head remained in her uterus, Dys said.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

"Tia's greatest concern is for other women who, like she was, are completely unaware of what goes on inside of Women's Health Center of West Virginia," Dys said. "Her motivation is that other women aren't harmed."

The Family Policy Council is being assisted in the lawsuit by [Alliance Defending Freedom](#), a Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Christian civil rights group that also has sued an abortion doctor in Colorado.