



ON-YOUR-SIDE

Woman claims 'botched abortion,' has baby

"I didn't want to kill twice" says woman who gave birth after one failed abortion.

Author: Ken Amaro and First Coast News (WTLV)

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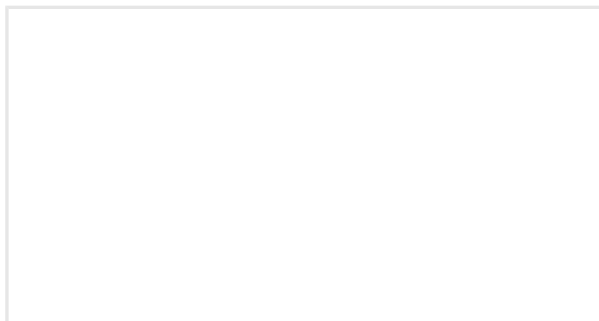
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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- It wasn't that she didn't want the child. She didn't think she could manage it financially. The mother of three was already struggling to make ends meet when she chose to seek an abortion. "I said why bring a life into this world if I can't afford it."



According to a complaint filed with the Department of Health, in March, she went to the All Women's Health Center of Jacksonville on the city's Southside, and paid \$400 for the procedure.





"I don't know what the abortion doctor did," she says. "She dilated my cervix. I know she was up there poking and jabbing. I thought the procedure was over, because I was in a lot of pain."

But two weeks later, she realized that she was still pregnant – a condition she says clinic staff confirmed. "She said, 'Oh honey I'm so sorry -- you still have a whole baby inside of you,'" recalls the patient, who asked not to be named. "I just went out of my mind a little bit, I was crying, I was scared. Can you imagine grieving for a child you had to terminate to find out you're still pregnant with the child? It is a blow."

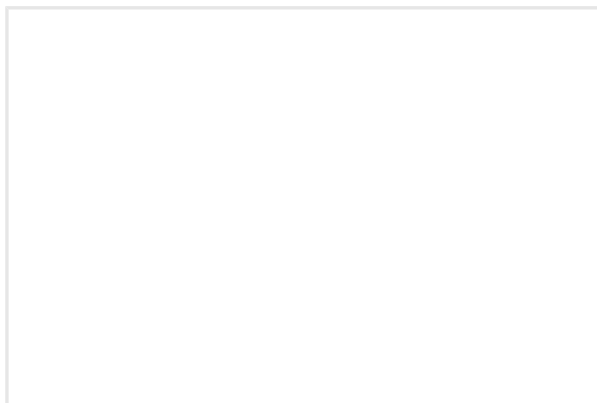
She says the clinic offered to perform the procedure again, at no charge, but she couldn't go through with it. As she says, "I didn't want to kill twice."

Instead, she filed a formal complaint with the Florida Department of Health, asking the doctor be punished for what she calls a "botched abortion." The formal name for it is a "failed termination" – a rare outcome in which an attempted abortion doesn't end a pregnancy. It's rare – in one study of 12,000 consecutive terminations, just three resulted in continuing pregnancies.



The Department of Health cannot comment or even confirm the existence of a complaint unless and until probable cause is found. And the doctor declined multiple requests for comment. However, First Coast News learned the doctor who performed the procedure, Dr. Laura Reinerston, has been disciplined in the past.

In 2002, state inspectors found registration deficiencies at her Broward County office that posed "an immediate danger to patients." She was fined \$10,000 and ordered to perform 100 community service hours.





In 2012 according to Department of Health documents, she was arrested for a DUI. She was dressed in scrubs when she was pulled over, and told police she was on the way to the hospital to see patients. A breathalyzer test showed her blood alcohol level at .16 -- twice the legal limit.

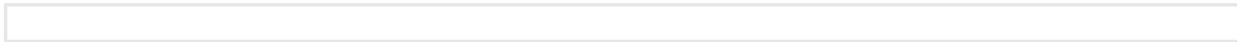
The incident cost her nearly \$6,000 in fines and other costs, and her license was suspended while she attended treatment for alcohol dependency.

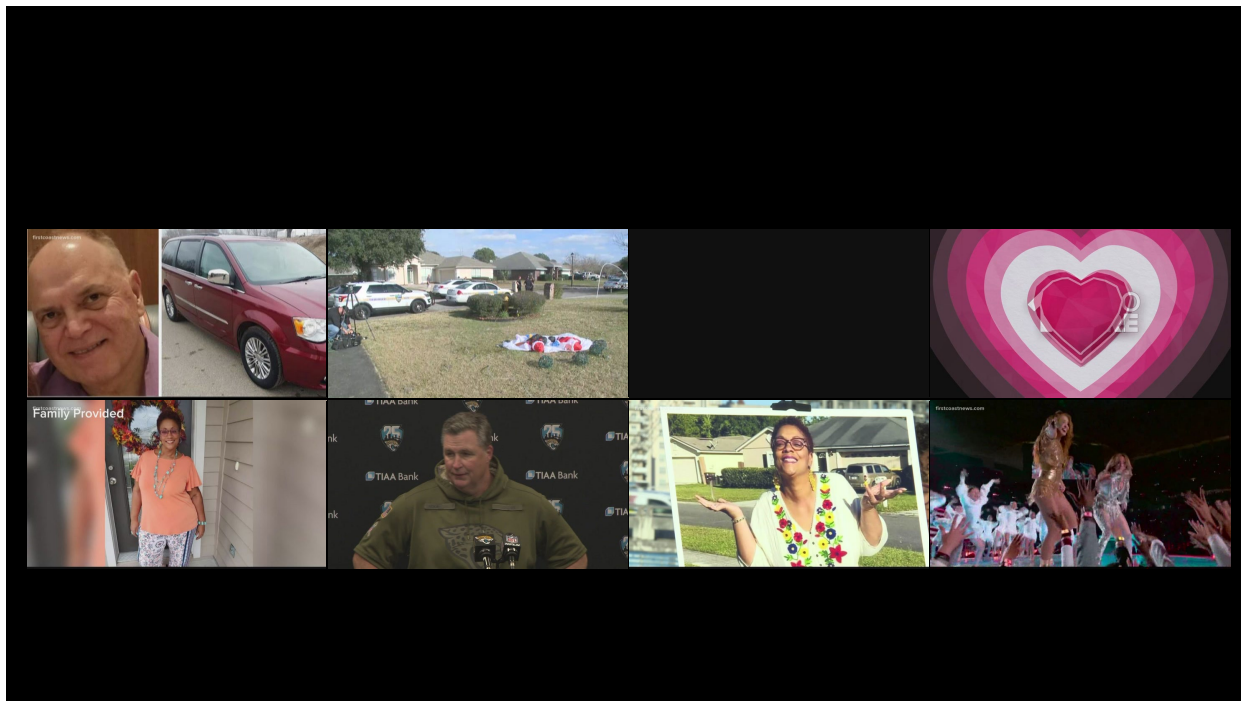
Dr. Reinerston's patient says she decided to speak out because she doesn't want what happened to her to happen to anyone else. She has also hired an attorney to pursue a complaint against the clinic and the doctor. "We're not going to stop," she says. "I want justice for my pain."

But she continued her pregnancy -- and in September she gave birth, prematurely, to a baby boy. A potential consequence of a failed termination is injury to the embryo, but although the child had to be placed on a CPAP machine at first, his mom says her son is doing well. "The sac was never touched," she says.

And today she celebrates her son, even though her experience caused a pain that takes time to heal.

"I'm still very angry, still angry," she says. "But as I hold my little angel, I thank God."





LOCAL

65-year-old Jacksonville Beach resident killed in crash on JTB and Kernan Blvd.

FHP said a Richard Dwight Sinclair, 65, was driving a 2015 Toyota Tacoma when he struck a traffic sign support on JTB just before the Kernan Boulevard exit ramp.

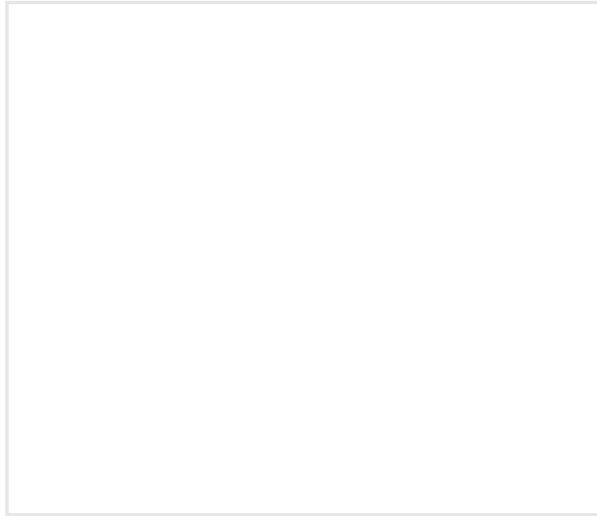
Author: First Coast News Staff

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Updated: 3:11 PM EST February 12, 2020

A 65-year-old Jacksonville Beach resident died Wednesday after striking a traffic sign support on J. Turner Butler just before the Kernan Boulevard exit, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

FHP said the crash occurred at 11:26 a.m. when a 2015 Toyota Tacoma driven by Richard Dwight Sinclair was traveling eastbound on State Road 202.



Sinclair began drifting off the roadway onto the right shoulder and struck a traffic sign support just before the Kernan Boulevard exit ramp, FHP said.

He was transported to Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to FHP.

It is unknown if alcohol played a factor in the crash and charges are under investigation.



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