

Thursday, November 2, 1995

Los Angeles Sentinel

# Family Files Abortion-Related Wrongful Death Suit

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Staff Writer

On Monday, little black boys and girls held black and white placards as tall as they were. "JUSTICE FOR THE WRONGFUL DEATH OF TA TANISHA WESSON," the signs read.

Ta Tanisha Wesson's parents, extended family and friends gathered in front of the Family Planning Associates abortion clinic to hold a press conference announcing their wrongful death suit against the clinic owner, Dr. Edward C. Allred.

Ta Tanisha Wesson's father, Lin Wesson, said, "My daughter went to this abortion clinic and never came home."

According to the Wesson's attorney, William N. McMillan III, on January 26 of this year, Ta Tanisha Wesson, 24, and a female friend, Mickey Gatton, went to the Family Planning Associates clinic located at 601 So. Westmoreland near down-

town.

While Gatton sat in the waiting area, Ta Tanisha was given an abortion. Complications arose and several hours later, Gatton saw an ambulance outside the clinic and found out the person was Ta Tanisha.

Although the clinic staff knew that Gatton was with Ta Tanisha, she was not informed of the very serious complications.

Gatton called Ta Tanisha's parents, who rushed down to the clinic but were not given any information by the staff.

"Everything was done in secrecy," Lin Wesson said.

Ta Tanisha Wesson never recovered from a coma-like state. She died in the hospital leaving David, her 5-year-old son.

Family spokesperson Susan Carpenter McMillan said, gesturing to David who had a baseball cap pulled over his head, "All my words could never speak as eloquently as the expression on this little boy's face who will never see his mother again."

Attorney McMillan spoke about the details of the wrongful death suit.

"This death could have definitely been avoided. In our wrongful death suit, we are claiming that Ta Tanisha Wesson was given too much anesthesia, which caused her to vomit and choke.

"We are claiming negligence by the clinic staff who were not present when she began vomiting and ultimately delayed 20-25 minutes before calling for emergency help," McMillan said.

The attorney also stated that several abortion-related lawsuits have been filed against Allred in the past.

Dr. Edward C. Allred has a troubling approach to his abortion business and equally troubling attitudes towards African Americans.

In an article published in the *San Diego Union* newspaper in 1980, the doctor expressed some of his views.

"Allred and his staff work quickly. Allred likes to spend no more than five minutes on each abortion," the article states.

The *San Diego Union* quotes Allred, "We try to use the physician for his technical skill and reduce the one-to-one relationship with the patient ... we usually see the patient for the first time on the operating table and then not again. More contact is just not efficient."

In the same article Allred makes the following comment about African Americans, "When a sullen black woman of 17 or 18 can decide to have a baby and get welfare and food stamps and become a burden to all of us, it's time to stop. In parts of South Los Angeles having babies for welfare is the only industry the people have."

Spokesperson Susan Carpenter McMillan, who is white, said, "Since white abortionist Allred has a history of racist remarks and Ta Tanisha is African American, we question if her death was due to outrageous medical practice alone or if the fact that she is black made the clinic even

less attentive to her condition."

The Wessons want a full investigation into the matter and hope to have the clinic closed down.

An anguished Lin Wesson approached the microphone, clearly trying to be strong for his weeping wife, Nicole, standing by his side. "We are here to seek justice. Justice for our daughter Ta Tanisha Wesson. Justice is our weapon. We did not come here with guns and knives like criminals. We have come armed with the justice in our legal system. Justice is our weapon," he said.

For additional information call Gina Becker (818) 449-4834.

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