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## \$1.9M settlement in botched abortion

Sunday, December 13, 2009  
LAST UPDATED: SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2009, 4:55 PM

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THE RECORD  
STAFF WRITER

10 Comments

Metropolitan Medical Associates in Englewood, among the state's largest abortion clinics, reached a \$1.9 million settlement with a woman who suffered massive hemorrhaging, a coma, a stroke and a hysterectomy after she had an abortion at the facility in 2007.

The incident led to an inspection by the state, which shut the facility down for more than a month until improvements were made.

The settlement includes \$1 million from the facility, \$575,000 from one of the doctors involved in the case and \$325,000 from another doctor who had assisted. The settlement was first reported in the New Jersey Law Journal.

Rasheedah Dinkins filed the suit in 2007 against the facility and two doctors, Keith Gresham, who was Dinkins' attending physician, and Nicholas Kotopoulos, who assisted after Dinkins started to bleed excessively.

Dinkins, then 20, visited the clinic in January of that year for a second-trimester abortion. The Englewood clinic is one of only a few in the state to perform second-trimester abortions.

### In coma three weeks

Hours after the procedure, Dinkins, back at home in Newark, became sluggish, then was unable to walk or talk. Her mother called for an ambulance, and, by the time it arrived, Dinkins had passed out.

At Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, doctors gave her transfusions and removed her damaged uterus. She suffered a stroke and her left lung collapsed from the severe blood loss. She needed a respirator and tracheotomy. Dinkins was in a coma for three weeks.

Newark Beth Israel filed a formal complaint with the state, saying it was concerned the abortion may have been done improperly. That led to a state inquiry of Metropolitan Medical, which performs more than 10,000 abortions a year.

"We learned from the case that their volume of procedures was one factor that led to this problem," said Roseland-based lawyer Adam Slater, who represented Dinkins. "When you do too many procedures, you start to lose sight of the fact that these are all separate patients and separate procedures."

Dinkins had "greater-than-expected bleeding, they couldn't stop it, they eventually took extraordinary measures to stop it, and then they sent her home," Slater said. "They should have sent her to Englewood Hospital, which is less than a mile away, where they would have examined her and found she had a uterine rupture. They would have treated her, and she would have been fine. But the damage from her excessive bleeding led to catastrophic injuries."

### 'Dirt and debris'

After the incident was reported, state inspectors found dirty forceps, rusty crochet hooks used to remove IUDs and a quarter-inch of dark red "dirt and debris" under an examining table in the Engle Street clinic.

The state let the facility reopen in March 2007.

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Frank Capese, a Westfield-based lawyer who represents the facility, said on Thursday that he could not discuss details of the settlement, reached over the summer, because the facility's insurance carrier instituted a strict confidentiality agreement as part of the settlement.

"However, there's always inherent danger in any medical procedure," Capese said. "The facility has an excellent treatment record, and they have served tens of thousands of patients without incident. That doesn't negate the sympathy the facility has for any problems this patient may have experienced."

Slater said Dinkins has made an "extremely good recovery" from her injuries.

The suit also named the National Abortion Federation, a group that Metropolitan Medical Associates belongs to.

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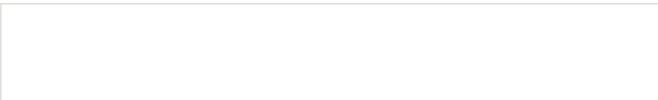
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- Monday December 14, 2009, 4:17 PM - **farallon** says:  
Anytime there's a story in this paper that reflects badly on the abortion mills, there's always a few nuts who write commnets attacking religion. They're obviously sent to do damage control. They have their work cut out for them this time, especially after the shocking revelation about dirty forceps, rusty crochet hooks, dark red dirt and debris found at this particular abortion mill.
- Monday December 14, 2009, 3:34 PM - **TW77** says:  
Thistle, y do u single out the Catholic Church? This is the same church that had put nuns(women) in charge of schooling and hospitals, while other religions donâ allow women to even leave their homes. Y do u attack the church and not Judaism or islam. The catholic church says that every person has an equal dignity in Godâs eyes. You can claim â choiceâ all you want, but a woman who has an unexpected pregnancy and has an abortion feels she has no choice but to abort. She is the one enslaved to herself. We want to set people free not enslave them!!
- Monday December 14, 2009, 11:27 AM - **farallon** says:  
People interested in knowing what goes on behind closed doors at abortion mills should play the video in this link [http://www.abort73.com/abortion/abortion\\_pictures/](http://www.abort73.com/abortion/abortion_pictures/)
- Monday December 14, 2009, 11:08 AM - **farallon** says:  
The Catholic Church doesn't run the Englewood abortion mill where 10,000 lives are snuffed out each year.
- Monday December 14, 2009, 4:12 AM - **thistle1967** says:  
Maybe if the Catholic church loosened up on their standards toward women(that they don't hold men to) then women wouldn't have the need to be seeking so many abortions. Or the rest of the religious right such as yourself.
- Monday December 14, 2009, 1:35 AM - **farallon** says:  
What does the Catholic Church have to do with this abortion mill in Englewood, where 10,000 lives are snuffed out each year?
- Sunday December 13, 2009, 6:00 PM - **thistle1967** says:  
Industry or not if you want to stop abortion then focus on birthcontrol and educating these women. It's time for you right to lifers to join the rest of the world in the proper century. TW77 since you mentioned slavery what the Catholic church does is also a form of enslavement toward women.
- Sunday December 13, 2009, 3:39 PM - **mabber2000** says:  
What is so sad is that this place is also still able to perform second trimester abortions. Whether anyone wants to believe this or not, they have to kill a live baby to perform this. How sick this is. Murder is against the law however it seems to be OK to murder a live baby. I just don't get it. Women feel it is OK to murder because it is so hard to put a baby up for adoption. I just don't get it. Women who have abortions without a medical reason, you are just selfish people. It is very easy to put a child up for adoption and give the baby a loving home. I have seen abortions and to see a baby in second trimester is disgusting. Hopefully some day these individuals will develop a better conscience.
- Sunday December 13, 2009, 3:21 PM - **TW77** says:  
Well, like slavery, abortion has become nothing but a billion dollar industry. Many facilities have a sick goal of having to get a certain number of abortions per day, so the 'health of the mother' takes a back seat. Look at slavery: people justified it because it was economically sufficient and claimed that blacks were not full persons. The only way that abortion can be stopped politically is defining human embryos/fetuses as who they are: humans! It's common sense If someone doesn't have the fundamental right to life, how can he/she have choices to make!!
- Sunday December 13, 2009, 9:32 AM - **fedup\_13153** says:  
Where are the coat hangers? Obviously since abortion is legal and safe, even more than child birth this could not possibly be true. Or perhaps in all that killing for an easy buck they forgot to safe guard the people or maybe they just were thinking of the next dollars they were going to make!

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