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Abortion and Patient Confidentiality



"We told our clients we would do everything in our power to protect their privacy. We're pleased today we can say to them we've been successful in doing so thus far."

Peter Brownlie, President, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri
Kansas City Star, abortion inquiry limited: 2-4-2006



Photo: Operationrescue.org

Abortion clinic tosses patient's names in garbage

The San-Diego Union Tribune reported that an abortion clinic in the county tossed doctors' and patients' addresses into a dumpster.

The September 9,1999 article was appropriately named, *Letter Rip - Shredders cropping up at home and at work as a hedge against identity thievery.*



Activist, 30 boxes of abortion records

For two years the records of women, who had abortions at **The Family Planning Associates** abortion clinics, were not private.

This news became public when an abortion activist claimed he raided 14 of the clinic's dumpsters and took the discarded patient records, which were just thrown away, a local newspaper discovered.

The October 10, 1999 story entitled, *Judge orders abortion records on 10,000 women be returned*, by the Orange County Register, said that in all he collected over 30 storage boxes of patient's medical records from dumpsters outside the abortion facilities.

Photo: operation rescue.org

Abortion clinic's medical records not confidential

In 1989, The Miami Herald reported that several employees of a South Florida abortion clinic chain had come to the paper to report on the poor conditions at the clinic.

In the article, *Abortion clinic pushed riskier anesthesia*, the paper mentioned that the abortion chain called the Today's Women's Medical Center, abortion clinic was inspected and was found lacking in several areas.

The paper noted that among other things the abortion clinic's medical records were neither confidential nor adequate.



Anti-abortionists access patient records

On January 6, 1999 the technology website called Cnet, posted an article entitled, *Abortion clinic sues CompuServe, ISP: By Courtney Macavinta*, which revealed that a Florida abortion clinic filed a federal lawsuit against CompuServe and another online service, charging that pro-life activists obtained access to private patient information, like addresses through the Internet companies.

In the Technology section of the New York Times the January 22, 1999 article, *ISPs and Database Sued in Abortion Case* reported that the lawyer for the abortion clinic, Roy Lucas said that CompuServe "carelessly" offered the personal information to subscribers without verifying via follow-up phone calls that the subscribers were permissible users of the information under DPPA.

But, Janet Dennis, a spokeswoman for Florida's Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, confirmed that the state directly offers access to motor vehicle data to any person, unless the data has been blocked. She said the state is in full compliance with the federal privacy law.

Abortion patient confidentiality breached

On October 5, 1989 the wire service, PR Newswire, reported in their article entitled, *Florida HRS closes Broward County abortion clinic, agency claims facility worst of recent closings* that on a September 3, 1989 the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) Inspection report, the state found that patient confidentiality was breached at the Pembroke Pines Ladies First abortion clinic:

Their report stated,

"When the woman arrived at this clinic, they signed in using their first and last names, anyone at the front desk was able to read who was there from this sign-in sheet. They also found that patient records from abortions conducted days before were still stored in plain sight in the recovery area, where they could be viewed by patients or anyone else entering the area. Boxes of the yellow pads that were used as sign-in sheets and old medical records were left open in a storage room located next to the recovery room."

Abortion clinic doesn't ensure confidentiality

Florida's Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) inspected Blue Coral Medical Center abortion clinic in 1989. In their inspection report, HRS Inspection report 9-25-26, 1989, they found the following:

- Abortion clinic had several violations.
 - Among them inspectors at the clinic noted that the clinic policies did not insure the confidentiality of the patient information,
 - records were not kept secure as they were found in boxes or in open drawers.
-

Abortion hospital, Medical records were inadequate

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, reported in an article entitled, *Judge orders Midtown Hospital closed*, that Midtown Hospital an abortion clinic, had the following violations:

- Equipment was not sterilized adequately
 - Employees could not prove their qualifications
 - Medical records were inadequate
 - The hospital lacked emergency policies
 - Maintenance and housekeeping failures included an opened window within feet of an operating room table
 - a hole in an operating room wall
 - dirty floors
 - stained ceiling tiles and
 - peeling paint
-

PA abortion doc has criminal record

WSEE Channel 35 News in Pennsylvania reported July 12, 2006, that abortionist Stephen Regec hired to perform abortions at the American Women's Services clinic in Erie, PA had a criminal record.

Regec, plead guilty in 1991 to three misdemeanors: one violation of the Controlled Substance Act; and two violations of Refusal or Failure to Keep or Furnish Records. As a result, Regec's license was suspended for four months, he paid a \$10,000 fine, and served two years' probation.

Abortion Patients, no confidentiality

After some legislation was passed in South Carolina, Bonnie Scott Jones, a staff attorney with the Center for Reproductive Rights made this stunning statement in the May 2003, Volume XII, Number 5 edition of Rights Reproductive Freedom News, *Providers (TRAP laws)*

"Patients seeking reproductive health services in South Carolina can no longer be guaranteed of the confidentiality of their health care decisions or their medical records."

Abortionist moves, leaves patients files exposed

In 1993, the Texas Board of Medical Examiners placed abortionist Tommy E. Swate's medical license on probation for five years after finding that patients were injured at two abortion clinics Swate operated in the Houston area.

On January 12, 1993, The Houston Chronicle reported (*DEA upholds methadone clinics' closures*) that Swate has been under investigation for allegedly abandoning hundreds of confidential patient files when he moved out of the Pinedale methadone clinic after it was closed by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The new owner of the property discovered the files, which were seized by state and federal authorities.

WomanCare Clinic tosses records in dumpster

The Detroit Freepress reported March 10, 2008, (*Medical waste, patients' records found in Dumpster outside Lathrup Village abortion clinic*) that the Lathrup Village abortion clinic, Womenscare, had thrown patient records in a dumpster behind the clinic.

In addition to the records officials found fetal matter, bloody surgical pads outside the clinic. The medical waste was removed by a licensed hazardous waste hauler, while the records remain in custody of the authorities.

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