



EXECUTIONERS

[back](#)

Basement abortionist

"Before abortion became legal, (New York abortionist) William Rashbaum remembers basement practitioners, with "one eye on the patient and one eye on the door," who grew so rich from under-the-table procedures that they didn't know what to do with all their cash. (One doctor took to buying racehorses)"

Mother Jones, *End of the Road*: September/October 2003

Are abortions still performed in basements?

According to the Reading Times, (*Abortion clinic called illegal, 9/25/1991*), Pennsylvania health officials began an investigation of abortionist Steven Brigham in 1991, when they learned that he was allegedly performing abortions in the basement of an apartment building on Penn Ave. They claimed that several of his former employees contacted officials concerned about his practice.

Brigham let his Pennsylvania license expire in 1992, and has not renewed it.

Pennsylvania is not the only state where Brigham's actions were called into question. Brigham's medical license shows it was revoked in Florida in 1995.

In 1994, The New York Administrative Review Board for Professional Misconduct and Physician Discipline found Brigham guilty of gross negligence and negligence on more than one occasion. Brigham's Georgia license expired in 1993 and has not been renewed.

A 1996 Virginia Pilot article (*Abortion clinic doctor has no license to practice in VA, 8/17/1996*) revealed that although Brigham was not licensed in the state, he and a partner attempted to obtain a lease at the Atrium Building, a professional and shopping center in the College Park area of Virginia Beach.

The Pilot reported that at the time of their investigation, an advertisement for the clinic was already in the Bell Atlantic Yellow Pages, naming "A Woman's Right" abortion clinic as the site of a clinic that performs "abortion via medication." A woman answering the phone at an 800 number provided in the ad denied Brigham was associated with the clinic.

The Pilot states that the revocation in New York, was the result of one abortion the doctor performed on a 20-year-old New Jersey woman who was 26 weeks pregnant.

New Jersey officials said that a complaint was filed by the attorney general against Brigham, alleging that he had sliced the woman's cervix, uterus and uterine artery, causing her to lose eight pints of blood.

The complaint also contends Brigham waited three hours before taking her to a hospital from his Spring Valley, NY, office. An emergency hysterectomy was performed later at the hospital, state officials said.

Rita Malley, a spokesman with the attorney general's office in New Jersey, told the Pilot that the charges of three other "botched abortions" were included in the complaint.

In a decision and order filed by the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs on August 28, 1996, the New Jersey board ruled that Brigham, **"shall cease/desist/refrain from any/all advertising which misleads or has the capacity to mislead and shall cease/desist/refrain from utilizing the terms 'safe' and 'painless' in any advertising."**

They ruled to dismiss all but on charge and reinstate Brigham's license with the condition that Brigham limit performance of abortions in the State of New Jersey to first trimester abortions.

Then in 2000, a New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs consent order filed December 7, stated that the Board office received information that Brigham had been convicted in New York state for failure to file corporate tax returns.

The Board found that his conviction in New York supported a finding that he had been convicted of a crime or offense relating adversely to the activity regulated by this Board. The Board then ordered that Brigham be reprimanded .

[Click here to read NY Statement of Charges \(.pdf\)](#)

[Click here to read NY Determination \(.pdf\)](#)

Home abortions chided by abortion industry

According to an Associated Press article entitled, *In Battle Over Abortion Rights, Women Learn To Do Them at Home*, dated December 14, 1992, a group of feminists regularly gets together with other women around the country to practice a technique often used in back alley abortion clinics during the days before Roe.

The technique is called, **"menstrual extraction,"** and was developed by a Los Angeles feminist in 1971, after observing equipment in an illegal abortion clinic.

The organizer told reporters that she believes so strongly in a woman's right to abortion that she has had several menstrual extractions performed in people's homes, even though she wasn't pregnant.

News reports stated that in response to this effort, abortionist Michael Policar, vice president for medical affairs of Planned Parenthood Federation of America Inc. made this comment, **"It's relegating women to Third World medicine."**

The National Abortion Federation (NAF) stated, **"Menstrual extraction and self-help care are not quality health care. We want to move forward, not backward."**

Nurse helped abortionist perform abortions in his home

The Daily Oklahoman, (*Doctor Investigated In Abortion Allegations, 7/15/1992*), reported that an abortion clinic nurse accused Oklahoma abortion doctor, Sidney Laughlin of performing abortions at his two-story home across the street from an elementary school.

According to the article, nurse Gayla Ennis, reported to authorities in a sworn statement that she had helped Laughlin in performing **four or five abortions at his home.**

She stated that he then **"used the dishwasher to sterilize his equipment."**



The nurse claimed that she stopped working with Laughlin after he allegedly aborted a baby at his home that according to her, **"looked about 28 weeks"**

She told reporters, **"I was shocked and after that one didn't help him anymore with anything. Sid had a few special instruments that he had special ordered, they were 12 to 14 inches long, had a 1 to 2 inch head with sharp teeth on the forceps part that he used to break up body parts."**

Local police set up a surveillance of Laughlin's home. Investigators did not see him doing abortions from the home then but police did report finding a dismembered fetus in one of 20 trash bags taken from outside his home.

The state medical examiner determined the fetus was 16 weeks old from the size of its foot.

The autopsy on the fetus states:


"Definitely identifiable human tissue consists of a right and left arm, both of which have been dismembered at the shoulder joint...a portion of the mid body is seen ...consisting of the back and buttocks. This specimen contains a definitely identifiable spinal cord with numerous organs of which a kidney is observed. Also present are right and left leg and foot, all having definitely identifiable digits as do the hands. There is a head portion also present which has been macerated and opened and shows no definitive brain, but fragments of what appear to be brain tissue are observed with the remains. ... The head has also been dismembered from the remaining portion of the body."

Doc sets up an abortion clinic in three apartments

The Arizona Republic printed a January 17, 1999 article entitled, *History of trouble at clinics abortion centers accumulate record of 6 deaths, 28 suits*, stating this about abortionist Moshe Hachamovitch, who performed abortions in several states,

"He also expanded into the Bronx, where he started a clinic in three apartments. Years later, abortion opponents turned him in to authorities for violating building codes but he was allowed to stay. That makeshift clinic was a far cry from that in upscale White Plains, whose operations were followed in a 1984 book that chronicled a day in the life of an abortion clinic. But that depiction contrasts with the portrait of his clinics painted in at least 28 lawsuits claiming negligence and other problems. While Hachamovitch was fighting to protect his license in New York, he was spending years cleaning up legal messes in his now-defunct clinics in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio."

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