

# EXCLUSIVE: Look inside 'Dr. Rick's' backyard trailer medical clinic

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Las Vegas, NV (KTNV) - Medical procedures, including surgery, illegally performed by an impostor doctor.

All done in a backyard trailer.

It's a crazy case that's been playing out over the past month. But until tonight, we've never seen the scene of the crime.

Chief Investigator Darcy Spears has an exclusive look into Dr. Rick's trailer of terror.

The last thing this place looks like is a medical clinic.

**PHOTOS:** [See the inside of Dr. Rick's Trailer of Terror](#)

But authorities say that's what was going on inside this backyard trailer, which served as Rick Van Thiel's home and the place he treated patients.

It's surroundings? A junkyard. You're greeted by a homemade sign denouncing vaccines as child abuse... With trash and old equipment all around.

Prosecutors described Van Thiel's trailer as something out of a horror film.

It's the place where he allegedly performed medical procedures on dozens and dozens of vulnerable patients.

"They come to me because I can do things that the regular MDs can't do," Van Thiel said in an October jailhouse interview.

Van Thiel is behind bars awaiting a December trial.

Prosecutors say there may be as many as 90 victims of his unlicensed medical practice.

They say he's performed operations, abortions and treated cancer and aids.

Authorities believe he's responsible for at least three deaths and multiple sex assaults.

"I've got my head held high," Van Thiel said in October. "I don't feel like I've done anything wrong."

Van Thiel will have to convince a jury of that.

But what will jurors think when they see the place where he was seeing patients?

Contact 13 is giving you your first and exclusive look inside the trailer in which Rick Van Thiel allegedly had his medical practice.

There's a massage-turned medical table in the trailer's main room.

It is surrounded by all manner of medical equipment including syringes, a blood pressure cuff, and shelves where pornographic devices are mixed with medical materials.

The place is a mess in the aftermath of Metro serving a search warrant.

They seized a lot, but left a ton behind. Like an IV stand with different kinds of scissors hanging off it, and vials and syringes covering the trailer's kitchen counters.

We also saw a whole bunch of hazardous waste bags on the floor, underneath more boxes of syringes.

There's also pharmaceutical grade anesthetic, gauze and gauges, and a scalp vein set used for intravenous injections or drawing blood.

Plus exam gloves, reference manuals and a medical instrument tray.

Going into the bedroom area, you see foil on the ground, there, and up around the bed.

### **VIDEO OF DR. RICK'S BEDROOM**

We're told that Van Thiel encased the bed that he slept in, in foil to block radio frequencies or other perceived electromagnetic threats to his health.

Outside the trailer we saw bags of medical pads sitting in the truck of Van Thiel's car.

Annuloplasty kits, which are used for heart valve repair, and copies of Nevada I.D. Cards and questionnaires that could have belonged to patients.

Inside the semi trailer in the same backyard, a gun safe, which is now empty after police seized the weapons, and that's what he's facing charges on.

Van Thiel is also a porn actor and sex toy manufacturer.

The semi is packed with stage lights, business cards, tools and dozens of pornographic videos.

For now, Van Thiel, who's an ex-felon, is only facing gun charges.

The Las Vegas police department is still investigating his unlicensed medical practice, and prosecutors say many more charges are coming.

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