

SUTTLAND CLINIC'S EX-CHIEF TURNS IN MD. LICENSE

By Retha Hill

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The former medical director of a Suitland clinic that performs abortions has surrendered his physician's license after a state board charged him with negligence at the clinic, where one of his patients died from complications from an abortion and another was left paralyzed.

Gideon M. Kioko, of Adelphi, surrendered his license in a letter to the Maryland Board of Physician Quality Assurance last Thursday, two weeks before he was scheduled to answer civil charges from the board.

The board charged Kioko with failing to meet the "appropriate standard" of medical and surgical care, practicing medicine with unauthorized people, and engaging in unprofessional conduct at Hillview Women's Medical Surgical Center on Silver Hill Road, according to its documents.

The board also charged Kioko with negligence while he was medical director at Cygma Health Center in Kensington. Kioko worked at Cygma after he left Hillview in October 1990.

By surrendering his Maryland license, Kioko did not admit that the charges were true, and the board's charging documents will not be admissible in the civil lawsuits that several women have filed against him, according to Carl F. Ameringer, Maryland's deputy attorney general. Kioko's decision to give up his Maryland license is not expected to affect his ability to practice medicine in the District, attorneys familiar with the case said. Kioko is in private practice as a gynecologist in the District.

Kioko could not be reached for comment yesterday. In his letter to the board last week, he said he wanted to "avoid further prosecution."

The investigation by the Maryland board that regulates doctors grew out of two incidents at the clinic in July and September 1989. According to the board's charging documents, Kioko performed an abortion in July 1989 on Debra Gray, 34, who had been given the anesthetic Brevital. Kioko told investigators that he was not aware of how much Brevital she had received, when she had received it, or who had administered it.

Minutes into the abortion, Gray began having breathing problems, but Kioko continued operating, the documents said. After Gray went into full cardiac arrest, another doctor who had been working elsewhere in the clinic administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Gray was taken by ambulance to the Malcolm Grow

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In the September 1989 incident, Suzanne R. Logan, 26, was given Brevital and had a reaction similar to Gray's. No one monitored her vital signs while she was anesthetized and no trained anesthesiologist was available, the charging documents said. Logan stopped breathing, went into cardiac arrest, and is now almost completely paralyzed and unable to speak.

The board found that Kioko "knew or . . . should have known that the medication that the patients had received had not been administered by qualified medical personnel, but nevertheless performed the surgical procedures in question." The board further found no evidence that the blood pressure or respiration of either patient had been monitored.

In Logan's case, the board found that the clinic did not have the appropriate drugs and equipment on hand to resuscitate Logan in the event of a medical emergency.

At Cygma, the board found that Kioko performed abortions during which an anesthetic was used without a qualified physician or anesthesiologist present to monitor patients. A lawsuit was filed on Logan's behalf Nov. 8 in Prince George's County Circuit Court, naming as defendants Kioko; the clinic; its owners, Barbara and Benjamin Lofton; and other clinic personnel.

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