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N.J. targets abortion doctor Steven Brigham's



(http://connect.lehighvalleylive.com/user/expresstimesstaff/index.html) By Express-Times staff and wire (http://connect.lehighvalleylive.com/user/expresstimesstaff/posts.html) on September 09, 2010 at 7:45 PM, updated September 09, 2010 at 8:55 PM

Print (http://blog.lehighvalleylive.com/phillipsburg_impact/print.html?entry=/2010/09/nj_targets_abortion_doctor_ste.html)



In early August, three women, each of them more than four months pregnant, sought abortions from **Dr. Steven Brigham** (http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/warren-county/index.ssf?/base/news-3/128365955711870.xml&coll=3) at one of his clinics in New Jersey. Instead of turning them down, authorities said, Brigham used a novel scheme to take advantage of the disparities in state abortion laws.

He started the late-term abortions in New Jersey, where he wasn't permitted to perform them, and finished them a day later in Maryland, where the law is more permissive, authorities said.

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Star-Ledger File Photo

Dr. Steven Brigham

One of the abortions, however, didn't go as planned, and Maryland officials ordered Brigham, 54, to stop practicing medicine in the state. New Jersey authorities are also seeking to take away his license.

Brigham operates American Women's Services offices in several states, including one at 157 S. Main St. in Phillipsburg. A former location in the 2200 block of Hamilton Boulevard in Allentown has closed.

Richard W. Westling, one of Brigham's attorneys, said abortion doctors are frequently

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“The matters currently being investigated involve procedures that Dr. Brigham believes were legal,” Westling said. “We are cooperating with the various investigations and believe that a full airing of all of the facts and legal issues is necessary before any conclusions are reached.”

‘Most egregious’ record

Brigham’s license has been suspended or revoked in several states, but he has continued operating more than a dozen clinics. The new allegations stunned even those familiar with his notorious reputation, who said they had never heard of a doctor initiating an abortion in one state then finishing it in another.

“His record is the most egregious one I know of in the field,” said Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation, an association of abortion providers, which has been warning authorities about Brigham’s practices since the mid-1990s.

New Jersey permits all licensed doctors to perform abortions for fetuses 14 weeks and younger, but Brigham and his clinics lacked the certification needed to perform a different procedure that’s used for later-term fetuses.

Maryland law is more flexible. Licensed physicians can perform abortions at any time before the fetus is deemed capable of surviving outside the womb, and abortions of viable fetuses are permitted to protect the life or health of the mother or if the fetus has serious genetic abnormalities. Doctors generally consider fetuses to be viable starting about 23 weeks.

New Jersey authorities claim that Brigham was violating state law simply by beginning second-trimester abortions in that state. Documents show Brigham began dilating the cervix in New Jersey then removed the fetus the next day in Maryland.

Documents show that Brigham didn’t even tell his patients they’d be going to his clinic in Elkton, Md., about 60 miles away. He simply led a caravan of vehicles, instructing patients or their relatives to follow him, documents show.

A lucrative business

Brigham graduated from Columbia University medical school in 1986. He’s the owner of American Women’s Services Inc. — which is headquartered in Voorhees, N.J., about 10 miles east of Philadelphia — and has 16 abortion clinics in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health in July ordered him to close his four clinics in the state, saying he employed unlicensed caregivers.

The abortion business can be lucrative for the relatively few doctors who perform the



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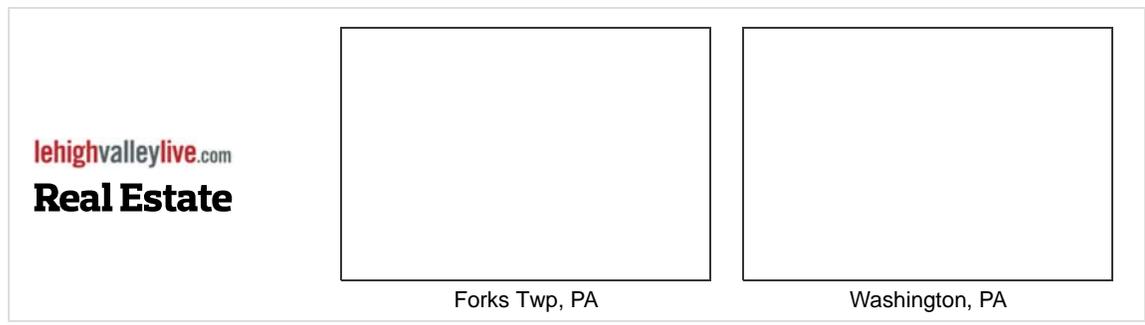
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procedure regularly, according to research by the Guttmacher Institute. The median price in 2005 for an abortion at 10 weeks was \$430, and at 20 weeks, when the procedure is more complicated, it was \$1,260, the Guttmacher Institute found.

Documents filed in Maryland suggest that Brigham and his staff frequently performed late-term abortions. A search of the Elkton clinic revealed a freezer with 35 late-term fetuses inside, including one believed to have been aborted at 36 weeks.



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Well harchickgirl1 not everyone knows a girl who has had an abortion and that is the problem with society! The girls having unprotected sex are using abortion as a form of oops I got pregnant birth control!! Before legal civil abortion people actually had to take respobibilities for their actions and the only abortions that were performed were done because the Dr. has decided either the baby was putting the womens health in danger or the baby was severally deformed. So how does someone getting pregnant because they didnt use protection and got pregnant and dont want the baby a medical need? The word "need" means it is needed.....now what word you want to use is....."Are you dear reader, going to tell each of these women they can't get legal medical services when they want them."

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Each of us knows a dozen women who have had an abortion. Are you, dear reader, going to tell each of these women that they can't get legal medical services when they are in need?

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A total scum bag, low life!!!

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wantfrieswiththat (<http://connect.lehighvalleylive.com/user/wantfrieswiththat/index.html>)

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"Brigham's license has been suspended or revoked in several states, but he has continued operating more than a dozen clinics."

Why is he still in business at all?

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what~a~wonderful~world~we~live~in (<http://connect.lehighvalleylive.com/user/whatawonderfulworldwelivein/index.html>)

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This is even sadder:

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Wow how disturbing....I must say that all stated is very true though. I worked for this man many years ago and left the office because of the very same reasons. I was sickened to know that he was killing children because someone had the right amount of money and was not mature enough to be a parent. I thought he had been shut down yrs ago and find it very surprising that after all this time they just now caught up to him. I fully understood why some would choose but then you have the ones that choose to use abortion as some form of birth control and because the medicaid would pay for services they would continuously come in month after month. All I know is that hopefully for the sake of children this issue ends, these are innocent babies being murdered and someone needs to step up and speak for them as they cannot be heard. As far as Dr. Brigham himself goes he is a nice man....as crazy as that sounds he was always kind and helpful....I think he just looks at it as though he is helping someone and not as murder....Seriously I use to answer phones and you should hear the women calling crying, begging....it's very sad. I wanted to say : keep your legs closed or use protection" but could'nt. Prayers of strength go out to those that will be handling this case, your going to need it!

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