

Testimony of Abortion Clinic Staff Whistleblower
House Federal and State Affairs Committee

February 16, 2004

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Kansans for Life has recently been in contact with a former employee of Kansas City, Kansas abortionist Krishna Rajanna, age 66. Even though Rajanna advertises in the yellow pages as "Abortions Affordable," his office at 1030 Central has never had his name on the door.

The information in this testimony comes from a young woman whom we shall call "Ruby," in order to protect her identity. "Ruby" became pregnant in high school and never graduated. At the time of her interview with KFL, she had been employed for over a year at Rajanna's office, without incident, and continued there for several more weeks.

"Ruby" was distressed at the practices of Rajanna and the deplorable, filthy conditions inside his offices. She said other employees were also disgusted with the way Rajanna did business.

Another former employee, "Kay," told "Ruby" that she had at one time sent information on the conditions in Rajanna's office to the "authorities." "Ruby" did not know what kind of "authority" regulated doctors and their offices. Out of desperation, "Ruby" spoke to someone at a crisis pregnancy center and was encouraged to contact Kansans for Life. KFL Legislative Director Kathy Ostrowski interviewed "Ruby" and urged her to make a report to the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts. "Ruby's" testimony below is unsolicited, uncompensated and self-motivated. Neither "Ruby" nor her family has any connection to Kansans for Life.

"Ruby" revealed the following irregular JOB PRACTICES:

Rajanna employs 4 staffers, and for part of "Ruby's" employment time Rajanna employed a Certified Nurse Aide. Other than the CNA, no one with any formal medical training was employed during her tenure. No published medical training materials were ever given to "Ruby". She claims that references were not checked on anyone who applied for a job nor was the truth of their alleged job experience confirmed. When "Ruby" was interviewed, she was not asked to produce a record of immunizations, nor was she told to obtain any missing immunization shots. She believes that was also the case for other employees.

"Ruby" had applied for a position as receptionist /physician helper. She was surprised when, soon after being hired, she was called inside the procedure room to assist with abortions. "Ruby" was uncomfortable in the role of surgical assistant.

Rajanna's employees, including "Ruby", picked up his drug orders from neighborhood pharmacies. Drugs were stored in a locked closet on site to which all employees had key access. At the time she was hired, "Ruby" can recall no questions asking if she had a criminal record.

"Ruby" revealed the following disturbing practices PRIOR TO SURGICAL ABORTIONS:

"Ruby" was shown how to take a patient's blood sample for the Rh test. She was not made aware of several procedural variances that can affect the accuracy of the test. When completed, the bloody slides, gloves and other contaminated products are tossed into regular plastic trash bags. There are no Bio-Hazardous waste containers anywhere onsite.

Minors who come for abortions are counseled over the phone. Prior to the issuance of the attorney general's opinion in June, "Ruby" knew some minors had been aborted as young as 13. After the opinion, staff was told not to take appointments for minors under 16.

“Ruby” revealed the following disturbing practices DURING SURGICAL ABORTIONS:

There are no changing rooms for patients and only one bathroom onsite for use by the public, patients and staff. A woman being aborted is brought to the procedure room clothed and put up on a bare table. An employee helps her lower her slacks and places a drape under her bottom. On her own initiative, between patients, “Ruby” said she wiped the table with alcohol.

“Ruby” was told how to insert an IV (intravenous line). No patient vital signs are taken during the abortion. “Ruby” has no training in CPR and believes the other employees also do not possess such training. She recalls being frightened at witnessing one abortion in spring 2003 where a minor went into shock from an allergic reaction to abortion medications. Rajanna lifted up the patient and literally carried her into his car, taking her to hospital.

“Ruby” revealed the following disturbing practices AFTER SURGICAL ABORTIONS:

After the abortion, an employee removes the IV, immediately puts sanitary pads inside the patient’s underwear and pulls up the patient’s lower garments. The patient, though unsteady, is then walked to a couch with staff assistance but without use of a wheelchair. This “recovery” area is barely a semi-private space. The patient’s friend, not an employee, attends the patient on the couch. No post-procedure vital signs are taken.

The patient is dismissed approximately 20 minutes later. No blood flow has been checked and no exam or discussion with doctor takes place before leaving the clinic. The patient is given antibiotic pills to take at home and has been given papers saying she can call the clinic, even after office hours. Patient has been requested to return within 21 days, although it was “Ruby’s” observation that 25% or less of the women actually returned for follow-up.

“Ruby” revealed the following disturbing STERILIZATION & DISPOSAL PROBLEMS:

Rajanna and staff wear gloves, but Rajanna’s medical jacket is infrequently washed, exhibiting dried blood-stains, food and dirt. Sometimes, clinic instruments were rinsed in bleach, but not sterilized. Two dishwashers adjoining a toilet are the “sterilizers.”

Unexamined fetal remains are strained through a sock into a jar and then put inside plastic bags, plastic convenience store cups and milk cartons. The cups and cartons are stored in the office refrigerators and freezers, adjoining unsealed and open food.

Nearly every area in the clinic is dirty and disheveled. There is no medical waste pickup service. At the end of the business day, all clinic trash, including bio-hazardous materials, is put into large trash bags that Rajanna loads into his car. Rajanna then drives with these bags to his Missouri home where they have been seen set outside for regular residential trash pickup.