



Statement from Cheryl Sullenger, Senior Policy Advisor, Operation Rescue
Selma, Alabama, June 19, 2015

When the U.S. Supreme Court decriminalized abortion in 1973, it did not end illegal abortion practices or stop abortionists from engaging in criminal conduct.

Abortionists that commit crimes are a very real problem, not only in Selma, but throughout the U.S.

While Pennsylvania abortion Kermit Gosnell is infamous for his conviction on three counts of murdering babies born alive during shoddy late-term abortions, he was also convicted of other offenses, including:

- 21 felony counts of illegal abortions beyond the 24 week limit.
- 211 misdemeanor counts of violating the 24-hour informed consent law.
- Several counts of Conspiracy and Operating a Corrupt Organization.
- Several Federal criminal counts involving conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and maintaining a place for the illegal distribution of controlled substances.

But Gosnell's criminal conduct is just one example in a pattern of criminal behavior that is systemic to the abortion industry.

Operation Rescue has a large archive documenting abortion-related crimes. Most of that documentation can be found at AbortionDocs.org by searching names of clinics and abortionists.

Crimes committed by abortionists include:

- Overbilling
- Embezzlement
- Financial Fraud
- Medical Fraud
- Misappropriation of tax dollars
- Drug violations
- Sex abuse/rape
- Non-reporting of child sex crimes
- Medical negligence

- Abortion deaths
- Forced/coerced abortions
- HIPPA violations
- Illegal dumping/storage of human remains
- Unlicensed abortionists/abortion workers/abortion clinics
- Substance abuse

While we have found that many abortionists are breaking the law, enforcement has been our biggest challenge. Criminal prosecutions are rare and so often authorities either look the other way or issue a simple slap on the wrist.

Take for example Feliciano Rios, a little-known abortionist from San Diego County, California.

He was convicted in 2009 of felony grand theft, Medi-Cal billing fraud, and perjury for which he served only 3-years of probation and no jail time. Later, in 2010, he was convicted of illegal possession of ammunition when authorities discovered a loaded gun at his abortion clinic in violation of the terms of his probation. That offense earned him just 17 days of incarceration, a \$5,000 fine, and another probationary period.

It took the Medical Board of California two years after his conviction to discipline him for his criminal conduct. His license was suspended for 60 days and placed on probation until January 31, 2017. He is not allowed to practice without supervision, however, he continues aborting babies at his office in Chula Vista where he targets women in the predominately poor Hispanic community for abortions.

Unlicensed abortionists and clinic workers are commonplace.

Bertha Bugarin (pronounced Boo-gar'-in) ran a chain of eleven abortion clinics whose business model was to market abortions to women in the predominately Black and Hispanic neighborhoods of Los Angeles and San Diego Counties. Her abortionists were the bottom of the barrel providers. One after another suffered license revocation after egregiously injuring women, and in some cases, killing them.

Bertha was running out of licensed abortionists and soon she and her sister began doing the procedures themselves, even though they had no formal medical training. Bugarin's background was in the unrelated field of restaurant management.

In 2008, Bugarin's clinics were raided by police and she was arrested. In 2009, she was convicted in both Los Angeles and San Diego Counties on nine felony counts of committing abortions without a medical license. She was sentenced to state prison for a term of 6 years, 8 months. Her chain of abortion clinics were closed.

However, two years later, under the guise of alleviating jail over-crowding, Gov. Jerry Brown ordered her released in a move that put thousands of convicted criminals back on the streets. Bugarin moved back into her multi-million dollar mansion in Los Angeles, but as far as is known has not returned to the abortion industry.

Sexual abuse is the abortion cartel's dirty little secret.

One of Bertha Bugarin's abortionists was Laurence Reich. He was convicted of raping and molesting his female patients in the 1980s. With his license restored in the 1990's, Reich went to work for Bugarin's abortion clinic chain where he had unrestricted access to vulnerable women. Once again, he was caught sexually abusing his abortion patients and was forced to surrender his medical license in 2007. Yet when his clinic was raided by police a year later, they found Reich still at work doing abortions.

In all his troubles, Reich never spent a day in jail, but managed probationary terms only for abusing his vulnerable abortion patients.

Brian Finkel was a prominent Phoenix-area abortionist who was known for lewd sense of humor. He was convicted in 2003 of sexually abusing 22 patients over a 17-year time span. Before his trial was finished, over 100 women had come forward claiming they, too, had been sexually assaulted by Finkel.

He is currently serving 35 years in an Arizona State Prison.

Oklahoma abortionist Nareshkumar Patel was charged in 1993 with one count of "forcible oral sodomy" and one count of sexual battery after a patient alleged that he had sexually assaulted her on an examination table prior to an abortion. Three more victims came forward and told of their horrific encounters with Patel, but somehow the jury failed to convict him.

In 2014, after Operation Rescue filed a complaint against Patel with the Oklahoma Attorney General's office. Patel was arrested and charged with three counts of obtaining money under false pretenses after he told non-pregnant women that they were in fact pregnant and sold them \$650 worth of abortion pills. The Attorney General later added a racketeering charge. If convicted, Patel would serve a minimum of 10 years in prison. He was also sued last year by a former employee who alleged Patel attempted to sell her into the sex trade overseas.

Abortionists in Maryland, Delaware, Ohio, Oregon, California, and other states have been disciplined for sex abuses. Shockingly, many are still actively working at abortion clinics.

Failure to report suspected cases of child sex abuse are heartbreaking crimes that have long-lasting repercussions on the young victims.

In Wichita, two young sisters were being raped by their step-father beginning when they were 11 and 12 years old. When the older girl became pregnant at age 12, her rapist took her to a Wichita abortion clinic where the suspected abuse was never reported. As a result, the girls suffered four

more years of unspeakable abuse before finally seeking help at a pregnancy help center, which did report the abuse. The rapist received 35-years in prison, but the abortionist that failed to report got away scot free.

In Indiana, there is happier news. Right to Life groups working with Operation Rescue obtained termination of pregnancy reports from the state health department. An examination of those records revealed that four abortionists were failing to report child sex abuse. As a result, the Attorney General's office filed administrative complaints against four abortionists and criminal charges were filed in two counties against Ulrich Klopfer. Two of Klopfer's abortion clinics have closed.

Criminal convictions for patient deaths are difficult to obtain, but have occurred.

Kermit Gosnell was convicted in 2013 of involuntary manslaughter in the overdose death of abortion patient Karnamaya Mongar.

Massachusetts abortionist Rapin Osathanondh was convicted and jailed in 2010 for the death of Laura Hope Smith in 2007. A clinic worker came forward and told authorities that Osathanondh bought and backdated emergency equipment to make it appear that it was on hand during Smith's fatal abortion. Osathanondh was forced to surrender his medical license and shut down his two abortion clinics.

Meanwhile, abortionists involved in the deaths of Tonya Reaves of Chicago, Jennifer Morbelli of New York, Lakisha Wilson of Cleveland, and others were never held accountable and continue to abort babies and endanger women's lives.

All this is not to even mention the financial malfeasance, drug offences, filthy conditions and other abuses that have been frequently documented within the abortion cartel.

Statistics show that since poor urban women of color are disproportionately targeted for abortions, they also bear the brunt of the suffering from illegal and unethical conduct perpetrated by abortionists.

While the conviction of Kermit Gosnell has raised awareness of abortion abuses and brought about small improvements in the enforcement of abortion laws, there is still a long way to go.

We at Operation Rescue believe that there are currently enough laws on the books to shut down nearly every abortion clinic in America, if the laws were properly enforced.

In Selma, there is no excuse for allowing the illegal abortion facility to continue operations and we stand strongly with all of you in protesting this injustice and praying that this and all abortion clinics in America would soon be closed.