

ABORTION COMPLICATIONS

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 1/25/81
NB 238



Abortion can have many negative effects on a woman's life and health. Some of these complications can linger for years after an abortion.

Extensive research into complications of abortion has been difficult because most abortion clinics do not provide follow-up exams; many long-term effects do not show up for years; and treatment for complications is often sought away from the abortionist or abortion facility.

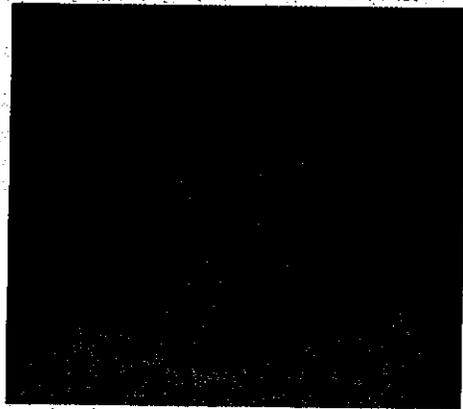
However, there is growing evidence from researchers that an abortion can set off a complex reaction, including physical and psychological aftereffects, which can have a powerful, negative impact on a woman's life.

I had an abortion when I was a 22-year-old college student. I was frantic when I became pregnant, so when my boyfriend urged abortion as the "way out," I complied.

I had an abortion when I was four months pregnant. The entire abortion and post-abortion experience was horrible. I went alone, since my boyfriend refused to accompany me.

The abortion itself was painful, the abortionist cold and uncaring. He did not give me any time to consider this life or death decision, nor did he give me sufficient information about abortion or

Olivia's Story



Olivia Gans

my unborn baby's development to allow me to make an informed decision.

The months following my abortion were dark and desperate. My boyfriend and I broke up three months after the abortion. I now know this is common. Eventually, I sank into a deep depression, what is called "post-abortion syndrome."

After a long time, I was finally able to face the fact that I had taken the life of my unborn child. Then I could grieve and finally forgive myself. Now I tell my story and talk about the reality of abortion so that other women will be better informed.

PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ABORTION

More than 100 physical complications have been associated with abortion. Immediate physical effects include: infection, hemorrhage, cervical damage, damage to other internal organs, perforation of the uterus, abdominal pain, menstrual irregularity, headaches, dizziness, and blood clots. In some cases, today's so-called "safe, legal" abortions can result in death.²⁴

Long-term physical effects include: sterility, stillbirth, miscarriage of future children, and premature births of subsequent children, (which can lead to many complications in newborns).²⁵

Secondary health problems

associated with abortion are now being studied. Abortion can lead to an increase in substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, etc.), which has many well-known negative health consequences.²⁶

Many women suffer from psychological aftereffects of abortion. These complications are called post-abortion syndrome, or PAS.²⁷

Some of the behavior which mark PAS are: recurrent memories, dreams and repetitions of the abortion experience; avoidance of emotional attachment; relationship problems; sleep disturbances; guilt about surviving when the unborn child died;

memory impairment; hostile outbursts; suicidal thoughts or actions; and substance abuse.²⁸

Some women begin to suffer from PAS right after their abortions; for others, the symptoms may not begin to appear for many months or years after the abortion. Often, a major life event, such as the birth of another child, can trigger PAS in a woman.²⁹

The negative psychological effects of abortion can also be seen in fathers, grandparents and siblings.³⁰ Even medical personnel involved in the abortion industry have reported that they suffered from negative effects.³¹