They told us they knew where Samantha was and invited us to their home to discuss the situation. At this point we were totally unaware of Samantha's condition and completely unprepared for what followed.

We arrived at the home of Samantha's boyfriend's parents at approximately 9:30 a.m. They informed us that our children had handled a very difficult situation in a very adult manner and that at that very moment our daughter was at an abortion clinic having an abortion. How we felt and reacted can only be imagined.

My husband asked where our daughter was and we were told at the Lovejoy Specialty Clinic. We made a phone call to Lovejoy, and my husband was told they would not give any information over the phone—not even an acknowledgment that our daughter was indeed there. My husband then asked them not to do anything to our daughter—if she was there—until we got there to talk to her.

We arrived at Lovejoy Clinic at about 10:00 a.m. We were taken to the office of the manager. We asked to see our daughter. We were told that we could visit only during visiting hours. We were also informed that Samantha had requested not to see us; therefore, we would not be allowed to see her. I asked him to check with her again, as I was certain she would see me.

My husband then asked if anything had yet been done to Samantha. The manager called in Lovejoy counselor Tim Shuck. Mr. Shuck said, and I quote, "You are too late. The procedure has already begun. It began about ten minutes ago." We both assumed that the abortion itself had begun, and that we were indeed too late.

We were highly dismayed and asked why they had proceeded against our express request to the contrary. We were told that Samantha was the only one who could make that decision. Mr. Shuck said he had counseled with Samantha at length and was satisfied that she had made a wise and informed decision. We argued that she had made her decision without being properly informed, insofar as she had not had the opportunity to discuss this matter with us, her parents, and therefore all of her alternatives had not been given proper or complete examination. Mr. Shuck told us that all of the alternatives had been discussed with Samantha.

Samantha later told us that this was completely untrue. The only counseling she received was about the abortion itself; they suggested no alternatives. Samantha has said that she wanted very badly to ask about the baby she was carrying, but was afraid to. The fact that she was carrying a baby was never mentioned.

We were informed that any decision Samantha made was hers alone to make, that she was protected by the law from any interference, and that the Supreme Court guaranteed her rights as a woman to make any decision concerning her own body.

We asked about parental responsibility and were told that our responsibility resumed the minute she walked out that door, but that as long as she remained within their clinic she was under the protection of the state.

At this point, it was difficult for two parents such as ourselves, who love our children and care deeply about their well-being and protection, to believe that this could be happening to us right here in the United States of America. We felt the total

helplessness and frustration that can only be felt when your child is alone and suffering in one room while in another room you are being prevented from seeing her. We couldn't even call the police for help: they had made very clear to us, a number of times, that the law was on their side and that we couldn't do a thing about it.

After much more discussion, at approximately 11:30 a.m., we asked once again if we might see our daughter. Both men casually looked at their watches and said, "I'm sorry, visiting hours are over."

Samantha told us later that during the entire time that we were in the office, her boyfriend, his parents, and another friend from school were all in her room and that they all remained there until 12:00 noon. She also told us that she had told Mr. Shuck that she would see me, her mother, after all. She wondered the whole time she was in her room why I never came.

We asked when Samantha would be ready to go home and were told that there was a time of recuperation and that it would probably be around 2:00 p.m. before she would be released.

We were also told that when she was ready to go she would be released to whoever was there to pick her up—whether that was a cab driver, a boyfriend, or whoever.

We refused to leave until we could get them to assure us that she would be released to no one but ourselves.

When we left the Lovejoy Specialty Clinic we were desperate. We didn't know whom we could turn to. Obviously, we could not go to any law enforcement agency. There is no law to protect the rights of parents in these matters. We stopped at a phone booth and, remember-

ing a billboard we had once read, looked up Right to Life in hopes that someone might be supportive of our situation.

At 2:00 p.m. we returned to Lovejoy and were met by Allene Klass, who introduced herself as the administrative director of Lovejoy. We had been seated in her office no less than five minutes when I realized she was analyzing us as parents. I point-blank asked her if that was what she was doing, and she answered that she was to determine whether or not we were fit parents to take Samantha back into our home. She informed us that if she felt Samantha would not receive proper treatment she would call the Department of Welfare and see that she was placed in a foster home.

We had at no time during our earlier visit expressed anything but loving concern for our daughter and had desired to see her only to assure her of our love and support—not for her abortion, which we were strongly opposed to, but of her person.

When Allene Klass made her statements, from that point on only my husband asked questions. I agreed to anything that woman had to say, so that I might have my daughter safely returned to me.

As we sat in that office, Allene Klass told us of how she had talked to Samantha, had counseled with her, and assured us what a beautiful, intelligent, and wise young woman she was.

Samantha later told us she had never laid eyes on her until she came into that office before leaving the clinic.

Allene Klass spent much time explaining to us her commitment to what she was doing, how many lives she had saved; she would not answer my husband's question regarding how many lives had been lost as