

a result of her dedication.

She gave a lengthy explanation about why parents should not be informed or allowed to interfere in the decision of their children—not the least of which was their overemotionalism. She said she actually feared for them, as if she could love them more than the parents themselves did.

Allene Klass then began telling us that she felt we had been dealt with badly by her staff during our first visit and that she could see we were loving and concerned parents. She said she would have a meeting with her staff and see that this sort of thing would never happen again. She felt that it would have been perfectly all right for us to have been allowed to see our daughter.

However, unknown to us was the fact that even as we spoke our daughter had not yet had her abortion; Allene Klass was aware of that and did not offer to let us see our daughter then. As a matter of fact, we were to remain in her office until everything was taken care of. The recuperation period they had earlier referred to never existed.

As we were talking with Allene Klass, Tim Shuck came into the office and began telling my husband and me that Samantha was a very adult young woman, that he was present during her first examination, and that her vagina was very relaxed. My husband asked if he was a licensed medical doctor. He said no, that he was a psychologist and as such he stayed with most of the girls during their examinations in order to give them support and comfort. I told him I felt that was my responsibility. My husband and I were both appalled at his reference to our daughter's vagina and at his presence during her examinations, which we feel was a violation of her

personal and bodily privacy. I do not believe that the presence of a non-medical person, a non-member of the family, would be allowed during an intimate examination in any major medical facility in this country. Not only was this man present, he witnessed the functioning of our daughter's vagina.

In questioning our daughter regarding this matter, we asked if the doctor himself talked to her and offered any advice or comfort during the abortion. She told us that the doctor never spoke one word in her presence—not before the abortion, during the abortion, or after the abortion. In fact, she mentioned to us that as she lay there she wondered what his voice sounded like. She did say that she knew his name was Ben, because someone had called him that.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., Samantha was escorted into Allene Klass's office. She was exceedingly pale and had difficulty standing on her feet. We embraced. I told her I loved her.

It is our firm conviction that we were deliberately lied to, prevented from seeing or talking to our daughter—all with the complete cooperation and authority of the State of Oregon—and there could only be one possible motive for that. They could not for a moment have doubted our concern for our daughter. We did not threaten them or indicate in any way that Samantha might be mistreated. The only possible motive they could have had for preventing us from seeing our daughter was the distinct possibility that she would not have had the abortion and that therefore they would have suffered the loss of \$158.

As Samantha and I sat in the car waiting for my husband to finish his

conversation with Allene Klass, I asked her, "Samantha, if we had been given a chance to talk and I could have told you that I love you, would care for you and your baby, would you have chosen to have had the abortion?" She said, "Mother, I waited for you to come. The answer is absolutely no."

Except for a number of incidents that we felt might not be important to this testimony, the events herein mentioned are just as we wrote them down immediately following our experience so that our emotions might never confuse our remembrance of what actually took place.

Note: In *Planned Parenthood v. Danforth*, 428 U.S. 52 (1976), and a related case, *Bellotti v. Baird*, 47 U.S.L.W. 4969 (1979), the United States Supreme Court ruled that a pregnant minor daughter or a pregnant wife may get an abortion without the knowledge or consent of parents or husband.

Reprinted with kind permission of
The Human Life Center, Collegeville, MN 56321

ADVOCATES FOR LIFE
P.O. Box 13656 Portland, OR 97213
(503) 257-7023 or 257-3031

Sun Life
Thaxton, Virginia 24174

(703) 586-4898

Printed in U.S.A.