

Report of record changing at abortion clinic probed

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and Karen Koshner

State authorities are investigating reports that employes at a South Side abortion clinic have been ordered to alter patient records that document dangerous medical practices, it was learned Wednesday.



**THE ABORTION
PROFITEERS**

Reaction

According to sources, employes claim they were ordered to falsify records of abortion patients dating back at least six months for whom the clinic allegedly had failed to record accurate laboratory results and ap-

propriate medications.

The clinic, the Summit Medical Center, 850 W. 103d, was ordered by a court Nov. 15 to stop performing abortions, following Sun-Times disclosures that its state license application, pending since July, had not been approved.

OFFICIALS OF THE Illinois Department of Public Health conceded that the clinic never had been inspected for license approval. Officials said there was at least a six-month delay in such inspections because of an overworked staff.

Employes reported the Summit clinic had

been doing about 10 abortions a day during the week and as many as 25 abortions on Saturdays.

Dr. Arnold Bickham, Summit owner, reportedly has fired some of the clinic's employes who he suspected were answering questions from state investigators.

It had been learned Tuesday that Bickham fired all of his employes at the Water Tower Reproductive Center, 840 N. Michigan, which he also owns.

The firings came one day after Bickham lost court battles that would have permitted Water Tower Reproductive to stay open while he appeals the revocation of the clinic's license.

State investigators have been demanding access to patient medical records in Bickham's clinics for their inquiry into possible disciplinary action against him and physicians working on his staff.

ALTERATIONS OF medical files could result in charges of obstruction of justice, according to attorneys for the Illinois Department of Registration and Education and the Department of Law Enforcement.

Employes from both clinics have described to The Sun-Times abuses they said they witnessed at both of Bickham's clinics and are co-operating with state licensing investigators.

In addition, investigators for the Department of Registration and Education are looking for one former patient who complained to the clinic after reading the Abortion Profiteers series in The Sun-Times that she had

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