

2 abortion referral firms are subpoenaed

By Pamela Zekman
and Karen Koshner

Illinois Atty. Gen. William J. Scott issued subpoenas Thursday for the records of two

abortion referral services in an investigation of possible consumer fraud.

Meanwhile, a Circuit Court judge paved the way for the closing of the Water Tower Reproductive Center Ltd., 840 N. Michigan, owned by Dr. Arnold

formed only in hospitals. In all three cases, the women were directed to doctors who knew nothing of the arrangements and refused to perform the procedure.

The women never received refunds and wound up having babies.

Victoria Lynn Sanders and Valerie McCullough, the two hot-line operators, were ordered to appear before Scott with their records. Also named in a subpoena was Pat Cain, which is an alias for Sanders.

Circuit Court Judge Joseph M. Wosik granted a procedural motion, filed by the attorney general's office, reviving a 2-year old case that seeks to close the Water Tower clinic because its license was revoked.

THIS NEW ACTION cleared the way for the state to shut down the clinic as early as Friday.

During the hearing, Judge Wosik chastised the assistant attorney general for not acting sooner to close the clinic.

"What you should say to me, if you were candid, is that because of the newspapers your office finally woke up," said Wosik.

In other developments resulting from The Sun-Times and Better Government Assn. investigation that uncovered medical abuses and dangerous medical practices in four abortion clinics:

- Gov. Thompson appointed Dan K. Webb, a former U.S. attorney, as a special assistant in the Illinois Department of Registration and Education to co-ordinate an interagency task force investigating abortion clinic operations.

Webb was assigned to look into the quality of medical care and cases of Medicaid fraud, with an emphasis on the operations of abortion clinics and physicians named in the series.

- During a meeting of the task force in Springfield, the Department of Public Aid said it would reopen several cases involving Medicaid fraud.

Public Aid also will be looking for evidence of doctors signing vouchers for surgery performed by other physicians, as disclosed in the series.

- The Summit Medical Center, 850 W. 103d, also owned by Bickham, was served with a temporary restraining order banning abortions for 10 days. The clinic, which had been operating without a license, Thursday again refused to admit inspectors from the Department of Public Health.

- The state filed suit against Summit, asking the clinic to show cause why it should not be held in contempt of court for blocking the

inspectors. A lawyer for the clinic said Wednesday that inspectors would be admitted.

- Representatives of six women's groups commended The Sun-Times' abortion series, but expressed concern that the reports of medical abuses in Chicago clinics would add fuel to the arguments of the anti-abortion movement.

The groups demanded that Thompson appoint members of the Health Evaluation and Referral Service, which does abortion clinic referrals, to his new task force. They also recommended the expansion of publicly funded abortions, birth control centers, pre- and post-natal services, and both child-care and health-care facilities.

- Ald. Edward M. Burke (14th) said he will renew his drive for strict regulation of abortion clinics as soon as he senses "some kind of show of public support."

Burke has introduced an ordinance that would require that clinics inform prospective abortion clients of agencies ready to help her through a pregnancy and in placement of a child for adoption and tell her "that it is the policy of the City of Chicago to encourage the woman to carry her unborn child to term."



**THE ABORTION
PROFITEERS**

Reaction

Bickham.

Scott announced his move within hours of The Sun-Times disclosure that the referral services are routinely swindling women by giving them little or no counseling in addition to haphazard pregnancy tests.

MORE THAN SIX MONTHS ago, the Legal Assistance Foundation contacted Scott's office with at least three complaints from women who gave hot lines \$75 to \$275 to make medical arrangements for second-trimester abortions, which can legally be per-