

September 28, 2011

MEDIA RELEASE:

Subject: 8 years after his daughter's death, Father releases website and video on the risks of the Abortion Pill on Mifepristone's 11th anniversary.

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Website: <http://www.abortionpillrisks.org/>

MIFEPRISTONE: 11 YEARS LATER

Approved in the US in 2000, mifepristone is claimed to have had an extraordinary journey by abortion providers. Supporters of medical abortion with mifepristone and misoprostol had hoped that it would provide a safe and non-surgical approach to rectify the inequities in abortion care.

Despite the drug's controversies, while weaving its way through the abortion-related political hazards, medical abortion has made its impact on women. Particularly, the tragic consequences it has had on the lives of many women and their families.

Women are relying upon what they believe is factual information along with a supportive network of providers assuring them of the drug's safety and effectiveness.

That wasn't the case for Holly Patterson and many others like her who participated in their own medical abortion procedure.

It is critical that a patient is fully informed of the procedures, administration, and health risks involved with a medical abortion.

After my daughter's death, 8 years later, the website Abortionpillrisks.org along with what may be the world's first video on "Medical Abortion with Mifepristone and Misoprostol" has been built to help other women learn about the risk and the facts of the medical abortion pill.

HOLLY'S DEATH: 8 YEARS LATER

After trips to Washington D.C., meeting with officials at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the White House, countless interviews with the media, spending thousands of hours researching medical abortion and Clostridium sordellii toxic shock syndrome, much as been learned about what really happened to Holly as well as other women who have been seriously injured or have died.

Holly felt it was important to share her time and help people in life. In her death, much has been learned from Holly's and other women's medical abortion experience. The information deserves to be shared.

Holly used the internet as source of information to help make a decision about her medical abortion. If Holly had survived, she may have built a website to share with other women.

"No woman should have to risk her life or her health because she lacks factual and accurate medical abortion information to make a well-informed decision when terminating an early pregnancy with Mifepristone and Misoprostol."

The website, Abortionpillrisks.org – Just the Facts, is a way for women and families to learn about the risks of medical abortion and to be able to share their experience and story with others.

Holly did not die in vain.

Sincerely,

Monty L. Patterson

(Holly's Dad)

HOLLY'S MEDICAL ABORTION EXPERIENCE

In August 2003, Holly Patterson, then 17, discovered she had become pregnant with her boyfriend, seven years her senior.

On September 10, shortly after her 18th birthday, the couple went to a Planned Parenthood clinic to terminate her seven-week-old pregnancy. There, she received the first of two drugs in the mifepristone abortion protocol.

At the clinic, Holly was administered an alternative/unapproved regimen of 200-mg mifepristone orally which blocks the hormone progesterone that is required to maintain a pregnancy. At home, 24 hours later, on September 11, she followed the clinic's instructions to vaginally insert 800-mcg of misoprostol to induce labor contractions and expel the fetus.

On September 13, Holly repeatedly called the Planned Parenthood clinic hotline to complain of severe cramping. She was told her symptoms were normal and to take the clinic prescribed Tylenol-Codeine painkiller. Later, Holly called the clinic's hotline again and was told to go to a local hospital's emergency room if the pain continued.

By September 14, Holly was still experiencing extreme cramping and bleeding, and visited the emergency room of Valley Care Medical Center in Pleasanton on the fourth day after her initial visit to Planned Parenthood. The doctor there, whom she told about her abortion, sent her home after an injection of narcotics and yet more painkillers.

The severity of the pain continued. Holly was weak, vomiting, and unable to walk.

In the early morning hours of September 17, she was re-admitted to Valley Care Medical Center. She died later that afternoon with her father — who had just learned of the pregnancy — at her side.

"Holly died on the seventh day after starting the mifepristone/misoprostol medical abortion regimen and on the same day she was scheduled to return to Planned Parenthood for a follow up visit to make sure her abortion had been completed."

HOLLY DIES FROM A CLOSTRIDIUM SORDELLII INFECTION AFTER MEDICAL ABORTION

In October 31, 2003, the Alameda, California coroner's office issued a report concluding that Holly Patterson died from Septic Shock, due to endomyometritis (uterus related blood infection), due to a therapeutic, drug induced abortion.

Months after her death, in 2004, it was discovered that Holly had tested positive for *Clostridium sordellii* toxic shock syndrome following medical abortion. (See BOXED WARNINGS)

Holly's death was the first case of a *Clostridium sordellii* toxic shock infection after medical abortion reported in the United States.

Since her death in 2003, there have been 10 reported deaths from sepsis (serious infection involving the blood) and 9 of these were from *Clostridium sordellii*.