AFFIDAVIT

State of Missouri)
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County of ST. CHARLES)

Before me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public, in and for the state of Missouri, on this day, personally appeared, Aberayana Moore, to me known to be, and who, after being duly sworn, on her oath stated the following facts to be true and accurate:

My name is Aberayana Moore.

On Friday morning 5/10/2019 my boyfriend Ron and I went to Hope (Clinic for Women) in Granite City IL upon referral for an abortion there from Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. Barnes even provided us a ride.

Barnes did an ultrasound and told us my baby would not live and recommended abortion.

Before entering Hope Clinic, John Ryan, a sidewalk counselor, asked that we reconsider aborting our baby, and after talking to him, we agreed. He was able to connect us with Dr. Dixon's office immediately in order that we could save our baby.

Dr. Michael Dixon's office scheduled an appointment 3 days later (5/13/2019) with St. Mary's Maternal and Fetal Care department in St. Louis for an ultrasound to learn more about our baby.

We were told by Hope's security guard that Barnes would cancel our ride home (in St. Louis) because we changed our minds about the abortion. Defenders of the Unborn took care of our ride home.

The next Monday, 5/13/2019, we went to SSM St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis for the scheduled ultrasound. We had already decided against abortion and came expecting to learn more about our baby and begin our care with Dr. Dixon.

We were shocked when, after the ultrasound, the St. Mary's doctors told us that abortion "is the best option" and tried to refer us right back to Hope to kill my baby. They always used the word "termination" but we knew it meant abortion. We met with a woman and a man, first separately. The man was medium height, fat, with greyish hair, and he had a Jewish skull cap on with Bobbie pins. The woman wore glasses, had dark hair, medium height, with a mole on the left side of her cheek. Her name is Dr. Sruti Surugucchi.

When I met with the Dr. Surugucchi alone, she right away kept saying over and over again, that abortion was "the best option." She wouldn't take no for an answer. The man waited until we all met together to start saying that abortion was "the best option." When they met with us together, they each insisted that abortion was the "best option." They each said it over and over again. When we wouldn't agree, the man said 'I'm going to give you guys time to make a decision, time to think about it, and they left us in the room for a while, and then came back in.

We came to St. Mary's after changing our minds about abortion. I was actually looking forward to getting to know more about my baby. We had even already named her: Kaliyah. What St. Mary's doctors were doing made me mad. I thought it was a Catholic hospital. Why did John Ryan send us to these people I thought? At no time in the meeting did Ron or I say we were even thinking about abortion. It was all their idea. We came to St. Mary's after changing our minds about abortion and they were trying to send us back there. Saying it was "the best option". I was so upset.

When he came back in, he said that abortion was the "best decision" for me to make. And she started pushing it again. They started with the same pressure, both insisting that abortion was "the best option." I was so angry I just shut down. I was mad. There was no decision to make. Finally, the man said that he would just get the paperwork together and said no more. She kept pushing abortion, even when we left, as we walked down the hall, she kept telling me that abortion "was best." She was still trying to talk me into it. I just wanted to get out of there. I was hurt and confused that the doctors would recommend we abort Kaliyah who by then was 19 weeks and 4 days old. We were glad to get out of there.

We later learned that John Ryan called SSM St. Mary's and spoke with the Director of that department, Sarah Vickhoff (314-768-8951), and he told her that my doctors had tried to pressure us into abortion and even tried to refer us back to Hope. He said she didn't sound at all surprised or shocked and immediately told him he would have to talk to Valerie Dicus, the Risk Officer for St. Mary's. She also, did not sound surprised or shocked.

We heard nothing back from SSM St. Mary's so the following Friday, 5/17/2019 Ron, John Ryan and I returned to SSM St. Mary's to get a copy of my record and ask to speak with them about what happened to us. We got a copy of my file, but they said they didn't have the ultrasounds pictures. When we got the file, we sat in the Hospital lobby. The file said we "desired" abortion. Both of us were immediately angry. They lied. We never said that.

We were shocked and angry that my record included lies. It didn't include all the efforts they made to try to get me to agree to go back to Hope for an abortion. I was really angry when I read they wrote that we "desire" abortion. Why would they lie like that? I kept saying no, and she kept telling me it was the best. Neither Ron nor I could believe that they would put lies in my record. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was SSM St. Mary's doctors who desired and recommended abortion, not us. They harassed and intimidated us.

We immediately went to the hospital clerk and asked to meet with the Hospital President since the people we were dealing with were not believable. We were being lied to, and he needed to know. We wanted to show him my file and tell him what really happened. We assumed he didn't know and would want to know and could help us. We were asked to wait which we did.

Within a few minutes a man who said he was the acting nursing supervisor approached us. We told him the same story and that we wanted to meet with the Hospital President. He asked us to wait and sometime later Valerie Dicus approached. She said she was with Risk Management and we had to go through the whole story yet again. She said nothing about her previous conversation on the phone with John Ryan.

We gave her a lot of detail about what happened in the Maternal and Fetal Care department the previous Friday. She also showed no shock or surprise. She only reacted when John described in detail how they abort babies the age of my Kaliyah. Her face got all twisted. We made it clear to her that at no time did we even talk about abortion as an "option", and we were offended when two of her doctor's promoted it.

John Ryan pointed out to Valerie that my file repeatedly indicated that her doctors would "support" abortion. Worse, they told us to return to Hope to abort Kaliyah. He told her that goes against Catholic teaching. She said nothing.

I did not feel listened to by Valerie. She was just taking notes. When John Ryan again informed her that we wanted to meet with the President, she told us, "That would have to go through me." and refused our request. I felt hurt, ignored, and angry, so we left. To this day, we have not heard back from SSM.

We also filed a complaint with the Board of Healing Arts asking that they investigate the lies in my record by the SSM doctors as well as the way we were treated by them. We did not hear back on that either.

My concerns from the beginning were not only the way I was being treated, but more importantly the way my daughter Kaliyah was treated by this hospital from the beginning. It reminded me of how Barnes treated us. That mistreatment goes all the way to the top of SSM.

I have not given up on honoring my baby girl by finally having her story heard by SSM management, and I worry how many other mothers have been harassed as we were by the Maternal and Fetal Care department since then, especially when our attempts to warn SSM of what was happening have been completely ignored to this day.

Aberayana Moore

Aberayana Moore

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of June, 2021.

GERARD A. NIETERS
Notary Public - Notary Seal
State of Missouri
Commissioned for St. Charles County
My Commission Expires: December 11, 2024
Commission Number: 12480746

Gerard A Nieters

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: