

October 25, 2012

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] I am a former employee of Aaron Women's Clinic and the Texas Surgical Center located in Houston, Texas. I have recently been quietly terminated. I was told numerous times that I did not have to come in and that I was not needed. I was employed for two years and throughout the two years I quickly discovered that the employer was not following proper protocols and policies. I have kept silent because I am single parent trying to make ends meet. I have a support team now who has agreed to help me through my finances, and so this is why I feel I can now spill the beans. I do not want to sound vindictive. I am a mother [REDACTED] and I would hate for one of them to ever step into a clinic as awful as this one.

Many things are going on at this facility that is illegal including not enough staff, no properly licensed registered nurses at the surgical center, and no nurse at the Aaron Women's Clinic. Medications are pre-drawn by anyone. There is no logging of medications. There are unsterile techniques for instruments and reusing of disposable supplies. The clinic engages in over charging. Ultrasounds are being tampered with to make the fetus appear larger in order to charge more. Illegal abortions are done over the legal stage. HIPAA policies do not exist. Food is stored in the medication refrigerator. There are no employee evaluations and employees have no breaks. Patients are being physically and emotionally abused. Dr. Douglas Karpen makes vulgar remarks about patient especially if they are heavy set women. There is cross contamination with sterile techniques. But the most dispicable would be the doctor sexually harassing a couple of former employees, one in general that I worked with. The other employee I only heard about.

Dr. Karpen's Texas Ambulatory Surgical Center is open for business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. A registered nurse is only present on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The LVN, Linda Shafer, is there Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday, but no other days, not even at the Aaron Women's Clinic.

Sometime around October, 2011, a former employee by the name of [REDACTED] quit her job of three years or so. She was employed by Dr. Douglas Karpen. The reason she quit was because she was fed up with the verbal abuse and the sexual harassment that she was dealing with by Dr. Karpen. Every employee knew that this was going on in the clinic, including myself. I felt that it was up to the employee to do or say something to the doctor. I and another former employee, [REDACTED] would advise her to do so, but she told us that was she was afraid to lose her job. She too is a single parent [REDACTED]

One day an employee, [REDACTED] who is still employed there, ran to the front office where [REDACTED] and myself sat and in a very confused look stated to us that she had just witnessed the doctor humping [REDACTED] as she had bent over to pick up a paper from the floor. We were speechless of course but we already knew that the harassment was happening so it was to no surprise to us. [REDACTED] and myself had always told her to put an end to this disgusting behavior of Dr. Karpen's.

Shortly after that incident, [REDACTED] called it quits. She left in the middle of her shift and she called [REDACTED] then still employed, and told her what had happen. So it happens that the doctor always would scream at her in front of patients and she had basically had enough of it all. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] decided to apply for unemployment benefits and had stated to the TWC that she had quit due to the sexual harassment and had stated that she had a witness, [REDACTED]

When the doctor received news of this filing of unemployment by this former employee he pulled [REDACTED] to a room and asked what she knew of the accusations that [REDACTED] was making towards him. I could hear some of the conversation from the office I was working in at the time. [REDACTED] admitted to knowing of his conduct and did not deny that we all knew of his conduct towards [REDACTED]

In short, after that his whole demeanor with [REDACTED] changed and he would avoid any contact with her or confrontation. [REDACTED] shortly after that was fired at home by a telephone call. The doctor told TWC because she was insubordinate and other employees were frightened of her because she was hostile to work with. This was not true. Doctor Karpen showed much favoritism to [REDACTED] until she stood her ground.

When [REDACTED] filed for unemployment, she was denied and she appealed it. I was asked to be a witness in the appeal. During the appeal, the TWC officer asked many questions and I answered truthfully. [REDACTED] was given the chance to question me she asked if was it not true that all the employees knew of his conduct of sexually harassing [REDACTED] I answered, "Yes it is true." The whole appeal the testimony was very inconsistent on his side. In fact, [REDACTED] was very consistent with her testimony and even the doctor's wife was caught in several lies when [REDACTED] questioned her during the appeal.

When the whole ordeal was over, I noticed that the doctor's whole demeanor changed with me. My hours were cut and then I was being told not to come in on certain days and so that's how it started. I was never fired, just was told they did not need me this day and that day and so on, that they would let me know. All of October has passed and they never called me back. I am of course far from stupid and I got the hint he was trying to get rid of me and he did not want to fire me because he knew I would file unemployment. [REDACTED] won the appeal, possibly because I answered the truth and I lost my job. I feel bad that I did not help [REDACTED] but I felt that if she did not do something herself, who would believe me? That is the same as [REDACTED] felt at the time.

I hope you take this as a serious complaint because there are many disturbing things about this doctor and clinic. Patients are put at risk every day. I am at your disposal for any questions. [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

