

Testimony of Wendi Babst

My name is Wendi Babst. I was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, but I have lived in Oregon since the time I was approximately 18 months old.

In 2018, I decided to submit a DNA sample to an online DNA database and in March of 2018, I received the results of the DNA analysis which showed several "close relative matches." After a series of internet searches and an email from a newly identified cousin, I found a common ancestor shared by many of these matches, Dr. Quincy Fortier. I learned Dr. Fortier had been sued by two families, with 4 children between them, for fertility fraud in the late 1990s and early 2000s after the children were identified as being the biological offspring of Dr. Fortier and their respective mothers. These cases were settled out of court and sealed to protect Dr. Fortier.

I recognized the name of Dr. Quincy Fortier because he had signed my birth certificate as the attending physician. I immediately realized I was not the biological child of the man I had always known as my father, but the child of Dr. Quincy Fortier, a man who was in his 50s when I was born. My mother sought treatment with Dr. Fortier who told her he was performing an artificial insemination procedure using my father's semen. She never had any idea that Dr. Fortier was inseminating her with his own.

Since 2018, I have discovered I have at least 30 half-siblings, and potentially hundreds more. My half-siblings range in age from their mid-70s to early-30s. I learned Dr. Fortier died in 2006, but kept his medical license in good standing, even though there was an open investigation by the local medical board which began after the first lawsuit was filed. Dr. Fortier practiced for over 40 years, and he treated thousands of women during this time.

It is hard to put into words how it feels to be the product of fertility fraud. It shook me to my core and made me reevaluate everything I knew about myself. I have had to grieve for my lost paternal family while trying to navigate new and awkward relationships with virtual strangers who are my "brothers and sisters."

I quickly discovered my mother and I were not alone in our status as victims of fertility fraud, and I also learned the legal systems in virtually all states only protect the rights of reproductive donors, even those who commit fraud in the process. I have heard the fertility industry in the United States described repeatedly as the "Wild West" with little to no regulation. Assisted reproduction of animals is more closely regulated in most states.

I spent over 31 years working in the field of law enforcement in Oregon and I devoted a major portion of my life to seeking a justice for others, I never imagined I would be seeking a measure of justice for myself or my newly-found family members. It is time to enact legislation to protect women, unborn children, and families that might serve to deter future fertility fraud and to provide sanctions for those who engage in this devastating practice. No one should have to go through this life-altering ordeal and then feel abandoned or overlooked by the justice system.

Thank you for your time.



Wendi S. Babst