

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

New York Times letters@nytimes.com

Dear Editors:

I read with dismay and concern your article describing the Planet Hospital international surrogacy program. The actions of the program director are inexcusable and a troubling reminder that programs of this type are unregulated, with no oversight to protect the public. Whether the director negligently mismanaged the funds of his clients or intentionally defrauded them remains to be seen. What is heartbreakingly apparent, however, is the despair of these would-be parents, and for many, the depletion of funds meant for their family-building efforts.

The American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys (AAARTA) is a non-profit, professional organization of attorneys who are invited to membership on the basis of their experience, ethical practices, and legal achievements in this area of the law. We invite prospective parents to review our public education materials concerning cross-border reproductive care. We urge them to consult with an experienced, qualified attorney in their home state, and in the country where they are considering treatment, before committing their money and emotions. AAARTA Fellows are required to follow its Code of Ethics to ensure that the assisted reproductive technology matters in which they are involved are handled appropriately.

Margaret E. Swain, Esquire

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The cited materials are available at www.aaarta.org.

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