



## MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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### Media Release:

December 14, 2017

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## **Former fertility specialist Dr. Donald Cline pleads guilty to obstructing justice**

*Cline admitted to misleading investigators with the Indiana Attorney General's Office*

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that Dr. Donald Cline has pleaded guilty to two counts of Obstruction of Justice (Level 6 Felonies) related to claims that he used his own sperm sample to inseminate patients at a fertility clinic in the 1970s and 1980s. Cline admitted to misleading investigators with the Office of Indiana Attorney General during a consumer complaint investigation into those claims.

“Not only did Dr. Cline abuse his position of complete trust with his patients, his decisions will have lasting impact through generations of the impacted families,” Prosecutor Terry Curry stated after the sentence was announced. “There were significant limitations to how a criminal case could proceed against Dr. Cline, but ultimately he admitted to his actions and to intentionally misleading investigators.”

In January 2015, the Attorney General's Office began to investigate after receiving complaints that Cline had used his own sperm at a fertility clinic. The Attorney General's Office sent Cline copies of the complaints and asked him to provide a written response to the investigators. In his written response, he denied ever using his own sperm sample for insemination.

In May 2016, Cline contradicted his written statements to the Attorney General's Office investigators when he admitted that he did in fact use his own sperm samples to inseminate women in his fertility clinic. The admission was recorded during a phone conversation with one of the individuals determined to be his biological child. That recording was then turned over to investigators. Further, DNA testing conducted during the course of the criminal investigation confirmed that Cline was the biological father of the two women who filed the original consumer complaint with the Indiana Attorney General's Office.

Cline, who is currently 79 years of age, was given a 365-day suspended sentence for the felony conviction. The criminal case was a result of an investigation by the Attorney General's Office in response to complaints filed with that agency and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office Grand Jury Division.