

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Atlanta, Georgia

CRYOLIFE TISSUE FROM SAME DONOR CADAVER MAIMS TWO PEOPLE

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With only 45 days remaining on conditional approval by the FDA to distribute cadaver tissue, CryoLife, Inc. faces two additional lawsuits from individuals who contracted a serious Clostridium bacterial infection from tissue CryoLife harvested from one donor cadaver. Don C. Keenan of Atlanta, attorney for the family of Brian Lykins, the young man who contracted and died from a Clostridium infection after receiving CryoLife allograft tissue in November 2001, also represents the TWO INDIVIDUALS FILING SUIT TOMORROW, TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2002.



Two more lawsuits against CryoLife, Inc. follow Brian Lykins' suit, by individuals maimed by the same donor cadaver.

In surgeries that took place over five months apart, the two individuals (from Georgia and Illinois) received allograft tissue implants harvested by CryoLife from the same donor cadaver. Like the Lykins case, the donor in these cases was a suicide cadaver, and was improperly handled, allowing for the uncontrolled growth of Clostridium, a bacterium found in the bowel and which is deadly in large amounts. The cases will be filed in Georgia, since CryoLife headquarters are located in Marietta, Georgia.

The first common-donor surgery was performed in Illinois in February 2001 to restore the knee of a 26-year-old advertising executive, now in California, who suffered from a degenerative knee. A full five months later a 38-year-old employee of a Georgia orthopedic clinic suffering from a basketball injury received implanted tissue from the very same cadaver, infected with the same strain of Clostridium. Both victims suffered critical infections and are not expected to regain full health.

As with the tissue that caused Brian Lykins' death, CryoLife never sterilized the tissue that caused the crippling injuries to these two men. Had CryoLife tested the tissue upon receipt or properly handled the tissue during processing neither of these men would be crippled for life. Keenan states that this most recent discovery "is evidence of CryoLife's sloppy practices and neglect of consumer health issues, and demonstrates once again that we have just begun to explore the tip of this iceberg."

As of 29 October 2002 the total number of outstanding cases against CryoLife, Inc. is fifteen. CryoLife has yet to acknowledge any shortcomings in its tissue processing procedures, or that it has any responsibility for the death and catastrophic injuries that are linked to CryoLife tissue.

These new victims hope not only that the FDA will continue to grant only conditional approval for distribution of tissue, but more importantly that there will be increased scrutiny and monitoring of the tissue industry. Over one million operations a year in the US utilize donated cadaver tissue; an increasing number of recipients have indicated adverse effects, ranging from infection to catastrophic injury and death.

For further information visit www.cryolifelitigation.com

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