

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LYKINS FAMILY TAKES ISSUE WITH CRYOLIFE COMPANY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

On 1 September 2002, the Atlanta Journal/Constitution printed an article titled "CryoLife Fighting to Keep Ticking: But many suits against the company are still up in the air". According to the article, CryoLife's Chief Financial Officer, D. Ashley Lee said: "We believe some of the cases that have been filed against us are frivolous and we will defend ourselves vigorously against this litigation. If you look at our loss history over the past several years for product liability, it's been nominal. I think the take-home message is these tissues historically have been very safe. We think that, in the end, the [insurance] coverage we have will be adequate".

In response to these misleading statements, the Lykins family attorney, Don C. Keenan, of Atlanta, asserts: "CryoLife has a history of silently settling, for confidential terms, their lawsuits. The first case in 1998 was settled confidentially. Because CryoLife has chosen to gag these lawsuits, the general public was unaware of the dangers posed by CryoLife's unsafe practices." Keenan further says: "The \$25,000,000 in insurance coverage is a mere drop in the bucket considering the total amount of outstanding lawsuits to date. The Brian Lykins case alone will take the full insurance coverage. There are several other deaths and many serious injuries. Our law firm has at least sixteen cases currently, with many suits surfacing each day all around the United States".

CFO Lee also stated in response to the FDA's closure of CryoLife's tissue business: "We obviously would hope to resume as quickly as possible, but until an agreement is reached with the FDA, there is no set time frame".

The Lykins family, according to Don Keenan, "will strongly resist any action permitting CryoLife to resume operations unless and until it acknowledges that it caused Brian Lykins' death and serious injury to many others." Keenan emphatically stated: "Until CryoLife admits what it has done in the past, the company cannot be trusted to move ahead with future operations".

Keenan will enlist the aid of senators, Congress-people, the media and consumer groups in an effort to stop the FDA from permitting CryoLife to resume operations until it admits its past mistakes.

According to Keenan: "It is inconceivable that the Federal government would permit an unsafe industry to resume operations until it admits past mistakes and the tremendous damage and heartbreak it has caused many families."

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