

Gas firm sues abortion clinic to regain tanks

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A North Little Rock gas-supply company is suing Arkansas' only surgical-abortion provider, asking a judge to force Little Rock Family Planning Services Clinic to return gas containers leased from the company.

The lawsuit by Welsco Inc. was filed Tuesday in Pulaski County Circuit Court. The three-page complaint asks Judge Alice Gray to force the clinic on Office Park Drive to return 13 cylinders used for nitrous oxide and medical grade oxygen that Welsco rented to the clinic in December.

The suit says Welsco, represented by Richard Donovan of the Rose Law Firm, stopped supplying the gases to the clinic and asked for the containers back, but the clinic refused. No hearings have been scheduled, and clinic officials have not responded to the lawsuit.

According to a Jan. 6 Little Rock police report, officers were called to the clinic by Welsco representative Aaron Campbell when he was rebuffed by clinic workers in his efforts to collect the containers. Clinic director Lori Williams refused Campbell's offer of a refund and told police she'd purchased the tanks and wasn't returning them until she could find a new supplier, the report states. Officers found no indication of wrongdoing.