



# FAST FACTS: THE GEORGIA ABORTION PILL DEATHS

Amber Thurman and Candi Miller should still be alive today. These mothers died due to complications caused by the abortion drug mifepristone (Mifeprex<sup>®</sup>, also known as RU-486 or simply “the abortion pill”). Dishonest claims from the abortion industry—such as suggesting that mifepristone is safer to use than Tylenol<sup>®</sup>—resulted in each of these women receiving substandard medical care. Additionally, pro-abortion figures such as Vice President Kamala Harris have caused significant confusion among the American public by incorrectly claiming that pro-life laws prevent doctors from providing necessary medical care to dying women. The Obama and Biden administrations’ decision to remove safety regulations for mifepristone (which included in-person dispensing and follow-up visits) also contributed to the circumstances that led to Thurman and Miller’s deaths.

Here are the facts.

## AMBER THURMAN’S CASE

- Amber Thurman’s death is tragic, and so is the death of her unborn twins.
- Thurman died due to complications caused by mifepristone, which was legally administered to her by a North Carolina abortion facility<sup>1</sup> that failed to provide the medical attention that might have prevented her death.
- At the time of the abortion, Thurman was nine weeks pregnant with twins.<sup>2</sup> At that point in pregnancy, 7.3 percent of women who use mifepristone to end their pregnancy have an incomplete abortion, which can lead to sepsis.<sup>3</sup>
- Thurman traveled from Georgia to North Carolina for a surgical abortion.
- Thurman showed up more than 15 minutes late for her surgical abortion due to traffic and was given the two-pill abortion regimen of mifepristone (the abortion drug) and misoprostol (used to expel the dead unborn child) instead. She was then sent back to Georgia.<sup>4</sup>
- Mifepristone usage carries a known risk of sepsis.<sup>5</sup> It also has a black box warning<sup>6</sup>—the highest safety warning the U.S. Food and Drug Administration can assign—despite claims that it is “safer than Tylenol<sup>®</sup>.”
- After an incomplete abortion, Thurman developed sepsis and needed a dilation and curettage (D&C).<sup>7</sup>
- In Georgia, D&Cs are not illegal unless they are used to *intentionally kill* a child in the womb.<sup>8</sup> Thurman’s unborn children were already dead as a result of mifepristone.
- Doctors never explained why Thurman did not receive a D&C right away. ProPublica speculates that pro-life laws may have influenced this decision,<sup>9</sup> but there is no evidence to support that claim.
- Georgia and every other state with pro-life laws allow doctors to intervene to save the life of the mother.<sup>10</sup>
- Ultimately, Thurman’s heart stopped during a D&C followed by a hysterectomy to treat sepsis.<sup>11</sup>

## CANDI MILLER'S CASE

- Candi Miller's death is tragic, and so is the death of her unborn child.
- Miller had several preexisting conditions, including lupus, hypertension, diabetes, and depression, and is reported to have feared pregnancy because of those conditions.<sup>12</sup>
- Miller reportedly never visited a doctor about her pregnancy.<sup>13</sup>
- Had Miller visited a doctor prior to ingesting mifepristone and had the doctor determined that her pregnancy posed a substantial threat to her health, she would have qualified for an abortion under Georgia law.<sup>14</sup>
- Three days before her death, Miller took mifepristone that was obtained online from Aid Access.<sup>15</sup>
- Miller's teenage son stated that she suffered for days after taking mifepristone,<sup>16</sup> possibly due to sepsis caused by an incomplete abortion.
- On November 12, 2022, Miller was found unresponsive and was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead.<sup>17</sup>
- At the time Miller ordered mifepristone from Aid Access, the business stated, "Medical abortion, like miscarriage, is a process that takes place over time and the body might take several weeks to fully expel all the tissues and products in the uterus. This is normal."<sup>18</sup>
- Aid Access misinformation may have contributed to Miller's decision not to seek medical help.
- The autopsy report indicates that Miller's abortion had been completed, but some of the remains were still left in her body.<sup>19</sup>
- The autopsy report also listed the immediate cause of Miller's death as fentanyl, acetaminophen (Tylenol®), and diphenhydramine (Benadryl®).<sup>20</sup>
- Last year, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration issued a public safety alert warning of fentanyl-laced fake prescription drugs;<sup>21</sup> however, the mortality review committee did not believe the abortion drugs obtained from Aid Access were tainted.<sup>22</sup>
- Miller's son said she did not visit a doctor because "if you get caught trying to do anything to get rid of the baby, you get jail time for that."<sup>23</sup>
- Had Miller gone to the hospital *after* taking mifepristone, any procedure performed to save her life would have been legal. Had she visited the doctor *prior* to ingesting mifepristone, and the doctor determined the pregnancy posed a substantial threat to Miller's health, she would have qualified for an abortion under Georgia law.<sup>24</sup>



# ENDNOTES

1. Kavitha Surana, “Abortion Bans Have Delayed Emergency Medical Care. In Georgia, Experts Say This Mother’s Death Was Preventable.,” ProPublica, September 16, 2024, <https://www.propublica.org/article/georgia-abortion-ban-amber-thurman-death>.
2. Ibid.
3. “Prescribing Information – Mifeprex®,” Food and Drug Administration, approved March 2016, accessed September 26, 2024, [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2016/020687s020lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/020687s020lbl.pdf). Table 4 indicates that 92.7 percent of drug-induced abortions during this stage of pregnancy were complete, meaning 7.3 percent were incomplete.
4. Surana, “Abortion Bans Have Delayed Emergency Medical Care. In Georgia, Experts Say This Mother’s Death Was Preventable.”
5. “Prescribing Information – Mifeprex®,” Food and Drug Administration.
6. Claire Delong and Charles V. Preuss, “Box Warning,” StatPearls (Treasure Island, FL: StatPearls Publishing, 2024), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK538521/>.
7. Surana, “Abortion Bans Have Delayed Emergency Medical Care. In Georgia, Experts Say This Mother’s Death Was Preventable.”
8. “Abortion: A Woman’s Right to Know,” Georgia Department of Public Health, 4, <https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/updatedwrtkbroadure/download>.
9. Surana, “Abortion Bans Have Delayed Emergency Medical Care. In Georgia, Experts Say This Mother’s Death Was Preventable.”
10. “Abortion: A Woman’s Right to Know,” Georgia Department of Public Health, 4; Mary E. Harned and Ingrid Skop, “Pro-Life Laws Protect Mom and Baby: Pregnant Women’s Lives are Protected in All States,” Charlotte Lozier Institute, September 11, 2023, <https://lozierinstitute.org/pro-life-laws-protect-mom-and-baby-pregnant-womens-lives-are-protected-in-all-states/>.
11. Surana, “Abortion Bans Have Delayed Emergency Medical Care. In Georgia, Experts Say This Mother’s Death Was Preventable.”
12. Kavitha Surana, “Afraid to Seek Care Amid Georgia’s Abortion Ban, She Stayed at Home and Died,” ProPublica, September 18, 2024, <https://www.propublica.org/article/candi-miller-abortion-ban-death-georgia>.
13. Ibid.
14. GA Code § 16-12-141 (2023), available online at <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/title-16/chapter-12/article-5/section-16-12-141/>.
15. Surana, “Afraid to Seek Care Amid Georgia’s Abortion Ban, She Stayed at Home and Died.”
16. Ibid.
17. Carole Novielli, “Autopsy report of Candi Miller, who died after taking abortion pill, raises crucial questions,” Live Action, September 23, 2024, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/autopsy-report-candi-miller-abortion-pill-questions/>.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, “DEA Laboratory Testing Reveals that 6 out of 10 Fentanyl-Laced Fake Prescription Pills Now Contain a Potentially Lethal Dose of Fentanyl,” Public Safety Alert, accessed September 26, 2024, <https://www.dea.gov/alert/dea-laboratory-testing-reveals-6-out-10-fentanyl-laced-fake-prescription-pills-now-contain>.
22. Surana, “Afraid to Seek Care Amid Georgia’s Abortion Ban, She Stayed at Home and Died.”
23. Ibid.
24. GA Code § 16-12-141 (2023).

