



# Guide to the Susan Wicklund papers

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## Table of Contents

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<a href="#">Summary</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Background</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Arrangement</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Administrative Information</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Names and Subjects</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Collection Inventory</a> .....	6

## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Susan Wicklund papers, 1970-2013

**Creator:**

Wicklund, Susan

**Source:**

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

**Abstract:**

Dr. Susan Wicklund is a former abortion provider from Wisconsin. The papers chiefly document her professional career, centering on her work in the Midwest, where she operated abortion clinics in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin from the 1990s to 2013. Materials include many items of correspondence from patients, supporters, and opponents; files on national and local abortion rights and women's movement groups; articles and newspaper clippings; conference papers; materials related to anti-abortion groups; legal documents, including court case records; a recording of her 1992 "60 Minutes" television interview, and drafts of her book, *This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor* (2007). A few clinic documents also exist in the form of leasing records, sample charts, manuals, and anonymized guestbooks. Acquired as part of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

**Extent:**

8 Linear Feet (16 boxes)

**Language:**

English

**Collection ID:**

RL.11321

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1p13z>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Susan Wicklund papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Background

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### Scope and Content

The Susan Wicklund papers include personal correspondence and professional papers regarding her work as an abortion provider in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Materials relate mostly to her work at Mountain Country Women's Clinic in Livingston, Montana in the 1990s, and include newspaper clippings, letters of support, patient reviews, donations, and administrative documents relating to the clinic in the form of sample charts, manuals, and anonymized guestbooks.

Materials relating to Wicklund's 1992 television interview on the "60 Minutes" program include a VHS tape of the interview, clippings, and many letters of support as well as hate mail.

The collection also contains materials related to anti-abortion groups and their harassment of Wicklund; these records also include legal documents referring to a related court case.

Also present in the collection are materials about various women's health organizations, support groups, conferences, and other clinics and centers, including Planned Parenthood, National Women's Organization, and the National Abortion Rights Action League. Drafts of Wicklund's book, *This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor* (2007) are also in this collection.

### Biographical/Historical

Susan Wicklund was born in 1954 and spent her career as an abortion provider in the Midwest. In her early twenties, she herself received an abortion just three years after the procedure was legalized. Her experience was relatively traumatic due in part to the apathy of the providers. This inspired her to pursue a career in medicine so that she could one day be the kind of abortion provider she wished she had when she underwent the procedure. She opened her own clinic in 1993, after which she faced constant threats from anti-abortion groups, and was targeted as a murderer of children. Despite fearing for her life, she continued practicing until 2013, when she retired and closed her clinic, the Mountain Country Women's Clinic in Livingston, Montana. She recounts her experiences in her own words in her book *This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor*, which was published in 2007.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Arrangement

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The papers are arranged in the original order in which they were received.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Use Restrictions

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### Acquisition Information

The Susan Wicklund papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2016.

### Processing Information

Processed and encoded by Amelia Verkerk and Paula Jeannet, February 2020.

Accession(s) described in this collection guide: 2016-0270

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Names and Subjects

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- Abortion -- Religious aspects
- Abortion -- United States
- Abortion services -- Middle West
- Abortion services -- United States -- History
- Pro-choice movement--United States
- Pro-life movement -- United States
- Women's health services -- Law and legislation -- United States
- Women's health services -- United States
- Middle West -- Social conditions
- VHS
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
- Wicklund, Susan

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## Collection Inventory

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CV and background, 1970s-1980s	Box 1
Family, undated	Box 1
Education, 1972-1987	Box 1
Diplomas and certificates, 1980s	Box 1
Personal correspondence, 1982-2010 and undated	Box 1
Poems, undated	Box 1
Grantsburg Clinic, October 5, 1988	Box 1
Fox Valley Reproductive Health Care Center [Wisconsin], July 15, 1989	Box 1
FWHO/SWHO, 1991-1992 and undated	Box 1

Calendars NWHO	Box 2
Rally Cambridge, MN, 1991	Box 2
FWHO v. Lambs of Christ, 1991-1998	Box 2
House Bill 1579, informed consent, 1989-1991	Box 2
Legal papers â€“ Fargo, 1992-1994	Box 2
Clinic Defense Project, Fargo, 1992-1993	Box 2
Newspaper coverage, Fargo, 1991-1992	Box 2
Cambridge Star clippings, 1991-1992	Box 2
City Pages, 1991-1992	Box 2
Fargo Forum, 1989-1992, undated	Box 2
Inter-County Leader (Polk and Burnett Counties, Wisconsin) clippings, 1989-1992	Box 2
Milwaukee Journal clippings, 1992	Box 2
Milwaukee Sentinel clippings, 1989-1992	Box 2
Articles by Martina Greywind	Box 2
March for Women's Lives, 1992-1993	Box 2
Pro-Choice movement materials, 1991-1995, undated	Box 2
The Doctor-Activist materials (book, 1997), 1992	Box 2
Letters of support, 1990-1991	Box 2
Letters of support , January 1992 - July 1992	Box 3
Donation, 1992	Box 3
Anti-abortion letters, 1991-1992	Box 3
MCWC, Bozeman, Montana (Mountain Country Women's Clinic), 1993-1998	Box 3
MCWC Clinic forms	Box 4

Correspondence, Dr. Balice, Bozeman, Montana, 1992-1995	Box 4
Correspondence, MCWC, Bozeman, Montana, 1993-1997	Box 4
Tkach, 1992	Box 4
Questionnaire	Box 4
MCWC, Bozeman, Montana, calls to clinic, 1990s?	Box 16
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	
Personal medical information restricted.	
Correspondence, Graybill (attorney), 1993	Box 4
FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances), 1993-1995	Box 4
Coalition for Life v. Janet Reno [FACE Challenge]	Box 4
Anti-abortion letters, 1993-1997	Box 4
Anti-abortion, Michael Ross, 1993-2012	Box 4
Michael Ross, correspondence and clippings, 1994-2012	Box 4
MCWC, contracts/rent documents, 1993-1994	Box 4
Abortion referral feedback, 1994	Box 4
MCWC budget narrative, 1997	Box 4
Max Baucus, US Senate, 1993-1997, undated	Box 4
Yankowski, 1997	Box 5
Conrad Burns, US Senate, 1993-1994	Box 5
Senate Bill 292, 1995	Box 5
Montana Parental Notification Lawsuit, 1993-2012	Box 5

Guide to the Susan Wicklund papers

Correspondence, Fay Clayton, 1998-2010	Box 5
Letters of support, 1993-1994	Box 5
Letters of support, 1995-1999	Box 6
P.R.O. Filmworks, 1992	Box 6
Correspondence with writers, 1992-1995	Box 6
New Woman magazine, "People of the Year", 1992	Box 6
Native American Reproductive Rights Council, Pierre, South Dakota, 1992-1993	Box 6
Minnesota Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, 1993	Box 6
Women Aloud, 1993	Box 6
Elizabeth Blackwell Health Center for Women, 1993	Box 6
Coalition Against Clinic Violence and Harassment, Des Moines, Iowa, 1993	Box 6
Correspondence, literary agents, 1993-1994	Box 6
NARAL (National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League) Awards Celebrations - Voices for Choice, 1994	Box 6
NOW (National Organization for Women) Montana State conference, 1993-1994	Box 6
Mirabella, 1992-1994	Box 6
Yorkshire TV, 1993-1994	Box 6
Correspondence with film producers, 1994-1995	Box 6
Correspondence with Rickie Sollinger, 1994-1995	Box 6
Glamour magazine article, 1995	Box 7
Glamour magazine proposal, 1997	Box 7

New Woman magazine article by Wicklund: "An Abortion Doctor's Hardest Choices" (March 1999), 1998-1999	Box 7
March for Women's Lives, 2004	Box 7
This Common Secret, book proposal packet	Box 7
Book drafts 2-5	Box 7
Book draft 6	Box 8
Book manuscript, 2007	Box 8
This Common Secret, page proofs	Box 8
Wicklund-Kesselheim Correspondence	Box 8
Sue's story	Box 8
Speaking notes, undated	Box 8
This Common Secret, letters from readers, 2008	Box 8
Ms. magazine, 2007-2010	Box 8
Speaking invitations, 1992-2011	Box 8
Book tours, publicity, reviews	Box 9
Interview requests, 1992	Box 9
Media Communication Guidance, 1990	Box 9
MCWC, Livingston, 2008-2013	Box 9
Sample chart, undated	Box 9
Wall hangings, MCWC Livingston, 2009-2013	Box 9
Supporters of MCWC Livingston, 2009, undated	Box 9
American Rights Coalition, undated	Box 9
Anti-abortion materials	Box 9
MCWC guest books	Box 16

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Picketeer information [all clinics]	Box 9
Security alerts [all clinics]	Box 9
State Abortion Laws, 1989-2009	Box 9
Thornburgh v. ACOG, 1985-1986	Box 9
Doe v. Esch	Box 9
Jeanette R v. Ellery, 1995	Box 9
Measure (Attorney), 1993-1994	Box 9
Abortion counseling [Charlotte Taft], 2009, undated	Box 9
American Life League, 1991-1995	Box 9
Ultrasound machine manual	Box 10
Bozeman Chronicle, letters to the editor	Box 10
Trust Women Fund, 2011	Box 10
MCWC Open House, 2010	Box 10
Anti-abortion letters, 2009-2013, undated	Box 10
Letters of support, 2000-2009	Box 10
Letters of support, 2010-2013	Box 11
Donations, 2011-2013	Box 11
Letters of support, undated	Box 11
Form letters of support	Box 11
Form postcards of support	Box 11
Catholic Diocese of Duluth / Bishop Schwietz, 1990	Box 11

Catholics for a Free Choice, 1990	Box 11
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, 1992-1998	Box 12
Choices Women's Medical Center	Box 12
Clara Bell Duvall Education Fund, 1994	Box 12
Feminist Majority Foundation, 1992-1998	Box 12
Feminist Women's Health Center, 1998	Box 12
FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act), 1992	Box 12
Guttmacher Institute, 1992-2006	Box 12
Warren Hern, Boulder Colorado	Box 12
Elizabeth Karlin, 1998	Box 12
Life Dynamics, Inc., 1993-1994	Box 12
Margaret Sanger Society, 1998-2001	Box 12
Medical Students for Choice, 1992-1999, undated	Box 12
NAF (National Abortion Federation), 1992-1994	Box 12
NAF and PPFA (Planned Parenthood Federation of America): "Undue Burden", 1993	Box 12
NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League), 1989-2009	Box 12
NARAL Fundraising and Awards Celebrations, 2008-2009	Box 12
NARAL Montana, 1989-2013, undated	Box 13
NARAL New York, 1995-2004	Box 13
NARAL Oregon, 1996-1997	Box 13
NCAP, 1992-1998	Box 13
Networks Newsletter, 1992-1994	Box 13

NOW (National Organization for Women), 1989-2007	Box 13
National NOW Times, 1991-1995	Box 13
Pearson Manual	Box 13
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, 2005	Box 13
Planned Parenthood, 1990-2008	Box 13
PPFA Phoenix Talk, 1994	Box 13
Pro-Life Action News, 1990-1992	Box 13
Refuse & Resist!, 1996-2001	Box 14
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, 1991-1995	Box 14
Routh Street Women's Clinic	Box 14
Youth For America, 1991	Box 14
The Body Politic, 1994	Box 14
Brookwood, Toward a More Perfect Union, 1991	Box 14
Cartoons	Box 14
Bozeman Chronicle clippings, 1993-2008, undated	Box 14
Life Advocate, 1992	Box 14
Miscellaneous newsletters, 1992-1998	Box 14
New York Times clippings, 1990-2007	Box 14
St. Paul Pioneer press clippings, 1990-2006	Box 14
Star Tribune clippings, 1989-1994	Box 14
Wall Street Journal clippings, 1994-1995, undated	Box 14
Washington Post clippings, 1990-1993	Box 14

---

General clippings, 1990-2009	Box 15
General clippings, undated	Box 15
Articles on abortion and reproduction, 1985-2008	Box 15
Abortion articles (non-medical) , 1991-2013	Box 15
Articles not related to abortion, 1984-1992	Box 15
Email and online article printouts, 1999-2012	Box 15
Mountain Country Clinic waiting room journals and guestbooks, 1993-2013	Box 16

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CBS "60 Minutes" television interview with Wicklund (VHS cassette), 1992 February	Box 16
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