

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

10 January 1986

Mr. L. A. Rehof,

Dear Mr. Rehof,

I have your letter of 13 November 1985 concerning new birth technologies.

There is no legislation in New Zealand governing experimentation on human beings, fetuses/embryos or human genetic material.

Rules on medical ethics are the responsibility of the New Zealand Medical Association. Section 4 of the Association's annual handbook sets out the rules. A copy is attached.

The criminal liability of the medical profession is dealt with in sections 61 and 61A of the Crimes Act 1961. A copy is attached. Civil liability is now virtually non-existent because of New Zealand's extensive scheme for providing compensation to victims of personal injury by accident. Injuries to persons caused by medical misadventure are covered by accident compensation.

I attach a copy of the definition of »personal injury by accident« in section 2 of the Accident Compensation Act 1982.

Professional discipline is dealt with in the Medical Practitioners Act 1968. A copy is attached.

You also ask for information about "books and articles by New Zealand scholars on these subjects". I was not clear whether you were seeking information about new birth technologies or about the matters listed

in the preceding paragraph of your letter. I enclose a list of New Zealand references on AID and IVF. If you would like more information on the matters discussed earlier in this letter, I suggest that you write to:

Director-General of Health
Department of Health
PO Box 5013
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Attention: Director of Hospitals Division.

I would be very grateful to receive any equivalent document to "New Birth Technologies" which has been published in Denmark, if there is an English version. If there is not, I would be interested to receive from you information on developments in Denmark, particularly in the areas of

- legislation on the status of children conceived using donated gametes,
- the right of access by such children to information about the donors,
- register of AID or IVF births,
- licensing of facilities for AID or IVF,
- surrogate motherhood.

Please let me know if I can help you with any further information.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Nixon
for Secretary for Justice