



Sono Bello Statement

A death occurred approximately six months ago following a procedure that took place at a Sono Bello Facility. An investigation was conducted by the King County Medical Examiner and the death was determined to be accidental. No fault was attributed to the physician who performed the procedure or to Sono Bello. No claims of negligence or other medical error have been asserted.

The physician involved is board certified by the American Board of Surgery, Fellowship trained in Cosmetic Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgery and the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery. All of the physicians based at this Sono Bello facility are experienced, board-certified, and fully licensed.

Serious complications rarely arise in liposuction procedures. Our methods are designed to minimize the risk of complications. Each of our patients is fully advised of the risks and potential side effects associated with this procedure, including the possibility of death. Each patient acknowledges in writing they understand the risks before any procedure is performed. There are inherent risks in any medical procedure which can lead to unexpected outcomes, as this event tragically illustrates. Due to federal and state privacy and confidentiality laws, Sono Bello is unable to comment further on the specific circumstances surrounding this matter.

The Department of Health has a separate inquiry pending regarding Sono Bello's use of non-Washington based physicians to train Washington-based physicians in our preferred method of performing procedures. This inquiry has nothing whatsoever to do with the death that occurred six months ago. We are fully cooperating with this inquiry. We believe our training procedures complied with applicable laws and regulations. We are no longer training in this manner pending the outcome of the Department's inquiry.

We recently learned that a former employee may have provided certain patients with unauthorized statements and information regarding the risks, complications and benefits of laser assisted liposuction. This may have included information on company letterhead. Those communications were not sanctioned or approved by Sono Bello. Our authorized marketing materials are carefully monitored for accuracy and we fully stand by those statements. Such materials will be made available to you at your request.

The same former employee is alleged to have performed a non-laser facial skin treatment on an individual without having a license to do so. Sono Bello does not perform such treatments, the treatment was not authorized by us and the equipment allegedly used was not owned or operated by Sono Bello. The Department of Health has investigated the matter and the employee has been terminated. In deference to the employee's privacy interest, Sono Bello cannot comment further on the former employment of this individual.

Dr. Thomas E. Garrison
Chief Medical Officer