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January 14, 2019

Attorney General Letitia James  
Office of the Attorney General  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

**Re: Childhood Sexual Abuse of Patients at Rockefeller University  
Under the Guise of Medical Treatment**

Dear Attorney General James,

I am writing to you on behalf of approximately 150 survivors of childhood sexual abuse who were abused while they were patients at Rockefeller University Hospital by one of its leading physicians, Dr. Reginald Archibald. We are requesting an investigation by your office into the thousands of illegal child sex abuse images that were taken by Dr. Archibald at Rockefeller University.

In October 2018, Rockefeller University admitted that children entrusted to its care were sexually abused by Dr. Reginald Archibald, an esteemed pediatric doctor and researcher who was employed by them during the 1940s through the 1980s. Dr. Archibald's medical practice and research focused on childhood growth disorders with a particular emphasis on boys. His subjects, who were generally between the ages of 6 and 16, were routinely undressed, photographed, fondled, instructed to perform sex acts, and in some cases, raped. During his tenure, he sexually abused hundreds and potentially thousands of children.

While Rockefeller University has admitted that it was aware of these allegations for years, until very recently it did little or nothing to investigate Dr. Archibald's abuse or help his victims.

As part of the abuse, Dr. Archibald regularly photographed these children naked. These images often included close-ups of their genitals taken under the guise of scientific study and medical treatment. The images were created with Rockefeller University equipment in Rockefeller University's hospital and should have been retained as part of the University's extensive official medical records.

Rockefeller University may currently possess thousands of illegal child sex abuse images spanning the 40 years of Dr. Archibald's tenure. Over the years, several of our clients inquired about their images to no avail. To date, Rockefeller University has failed to provide definitive or consistent answers about the exact nature, whereabouts, or disposition of these images. In some cases, the University has told survivors that it does not have the images and "doesn't expect to find them," while in others, the University has said it is still reviewing its files. The images may also be in the possession of Dr. Archibald's surviving wife and children or hidden in the attic of his former residence in Pelham, New York.

Unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly, there has been little accountability or transparency concerning this vitally important issue which has haunted Dr. Archibald's patients for decades. The survivors, who were already sexually abused as children, are now constantly living with the very real possibility that their child sex abuse images could resurface at any time in any place, causing them additional shame, trauma, and humiliation. The survivors and the public have demanded answers while receiving nothing but silence in response.

On December 11, 2018, I sent a letter on behalf of these patients to Rockefeller University, asking them to, within 30 days, release all information concerning the location, custodian, transfer, and/or last known whereabouts of any and all images that were taken of Dr. Archibald's patients. That 30 days recently lapsed with absolutely no response from Rockefeller University. As a private educational institution incorporated in the State of New York as a non-profit university, Rockefeller University is within the jurisdiction of the AG's Charities Bureau. As a health care provider operating within the State of New York, Rockefeller University Hospital is within the jurisdiction of the AG's Health Care Bureau.

This letter also serves as a request to New York State Education Department Chancellor Betty A. Rosa and Commissioner of Health for New York State Dr. Howard A. Zucker that they formally ask for your help in conducting a criminal investigation of these matters through the AG's Criminal Enforcement and Financial Crime Bureau.

For decades, Rockefeller University ignored and covered up this disturbing abuse by Dr. Archibald. Only the State of New York can impose accountability and demand answers for Dr. Archibald's past victims. Only the State of New York can help assure that something like this never happens again at a New York educational state institution and hospital.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Freeman

CC: Betty A. Rosa, Chancellor, New York State Education Department  
Dr. Howard A. Zucker, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health