

20073-27-119

To all Women's Organisations

January 9, 1985

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**FROM THE A.H. ROBINS COMPANY**

From the early to mid 1970's, an intra-uterine birth control device (IUD) known as the Dalkon Shield was available in your country.

The product was marketed by the A.H. Robins Company, Richmond, Virginia, USA. It was removed from the market worldwide more than a decade ago following reports of medical complications associated with its use.

In the United States, where most of the Dalkon Shields were distributed, there has been a significant amount of litigation alleging injuries associated with the use of the Dalkon Shield.

As a part of a proceeding before a U.S. Court in Virginia, a Federal Judge has established a date beyond which no further claims may be filed against Robins claiming injury from use of the Dalkon Shield. That date is April 30, 1986.

We are seeking your cooperation in communicating with all women who may have had the Dalkon Shield inserted in the early to mid 1970's that they need to act promptly if they want to assert a claim against Robins.

2.

The people who may assert a claim are those who may have been injured by use of the Dalkon Shield, those who may be injured in the future, and those who may have been injured due to another person's use of the Dalkon Shield.

People who intend to file a claim do not need a lawyer. They must send their full name and complete address and a simple statement that they wish to make a claim to this address: Dalkon Shield, P.O. Box 444, Richmond, Virginia 23203 USA. The postcard or letter must be received by the court by April 30, 1986.

People who make a claim will then be sent a questionnaire and further instructions. The questionnaire must be received by the court on or before July 30, 1986.

Your cooperation in notifying members of organisation about this matter will be much appreciated.

Enclosed is a public notice giving full details of procedures and deadlines.

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Issued on behalf of:	A.H. Robins Company
By:	Consultus
Contact:	Bruce Kohn
	Telephone: 720-991
Date:	9 January 1986

## THE DALKON SHIELD - BACKGROUND

The Dalkon Shield was an intra-uterine birth control device (IUD). Made of plastic, it was oval in shape, with small fins extending from its right and left sides, and a tail string to facilitate its proper placement and removal.

The Dalkon Shield was developed in the late 1960's and originally marketed by the Dalkon Corporation, which sold about 27,000 of them. In June 1970, the A.H. Robins Company, Richmond, Virginia, acquired the product from the Dalkon Corporation and began sales and distribution in January 1971.

Between 1971 and 1974, about 2.8 million Dalkon Shields were distributed in the United States and about 1.7 million outside the U.S., including about 700,000 through the Agency for International Development (AID). It is estimated that 2.2 million Dalkon Shields were actually used in the U.S., and less than 1.4 million were actually used outside the U.S.

In 1973, Robins became aware of reports linking the Dalkon Shield to certain medical complications and notified the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the potential problem.

On June 28, 1974, following discussions with FDA, Robins withdrew the Dalkon Shield from the U.S. market pending further study of it and other IUDs. Sales were discontinued outside the U.S. between July 1974 and March 1975.

In December 1974, the FDA completed its study and said that the product could be marketed again with a modified tail string under a special patient registry system. Robins, however, chose not to remarket it, though it regarded the Dalkon Shield as a safe and effective birth control device, and still regards it as comparable in safety and effectiveness to other IUDs.

During the 1970's and until 1983, the FDA position was that women using the Dalkon Shield without complication need not have it removed. In 1980, Robins advised doctors and clinics to remove the Dalkon Shield from women using it, even if the device was not causing complications. This recommendation was based on medical literature, published that year, suggesting a possible relationship between the duration of use of inert IUDs and development of pelvic infection.

In October, 1984, Robins again urged that women have the Dalkon Shield removed even though it was not causing complications. The 1984 removal effort was unprecedented in scope and included communicating with the governments of all countries in which the Dalkon Shield had been distributed.

2.

Over the past decade, Robins has been subjected to a large amount of litigation in the United States alleging injuries associated with the use of the Dalkon Shield. As part of a proceeding before a U.S. Court in Virginia, a Federal judge has established April 30, 1986 as the date beyond which no further Dalkon Shield claims may be received. The judge directed Robins to notify all people of this deadline.

All women who claim they may have been injured by the Dalkon Shield or who may be injured in the future, or anyone else who claims they may have been injured due to another person's use of the Dalkon Shield, must send a postcard or letter to: Dalkon Shield, P.O. Box 444, Richmond, Virginia 23203 USA.

Those making claims must send their full names and complete addresses and a statement that they want to make a claim. They will receive a questionnaire and further instructions for processing their claims from the court. The questionnaire must be received by the court by June 30, 1986 (U.S. residents) or July 30, (non-U.S. residents).

The filing of a claim with the court will not automatically lead to a settlement; that determination will be made under the court's direction based on the facts in each individual case.

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By:	Consultus
Contact:	Bruce Kohn
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Date:	9 January 1986

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## THE DALKON SHIELD

The manufacturer of the Dalkon Shield — an intra-uterine birth control device (IUD) available during the early to mid 1970s — is advising women who may have used the device of the procedure for filing a claim if they may have been injured or may suffer in the future from use of the product.

A U.S. Judge has established a date after which no further claims of injury may be filed as a result of use of the Dalkon Shield. That date is April 30, 1986.

If you intend to assert a claim against the manufacturer of the Dalkon Shield, you must do so on or before April 30, 1986. This applies to people who may have been injured because of use of the Dalkon Shield, who may have used the Dalkon Shield but not yet experienced an injury, or may have been injured because of another person's use of the Dalkon Shield.

To make a claim, you do not need a lawyer.

You should send a letter or postcard with your full name and complete address with a simple statement that you are making a claim to:

Dalkon Shield  
P.O. Box 444  
Richmond, Virginia 23203 USA

You will then receive a questionnaire which must be completed and received by the court by July 30, 1986.

