

Elle New York Crimes

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Late Edition

New York: Today, turning partly sunny, chilly, high 31. Tonight, clouds, a flurry late, low 24. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chilly, high 34. Yesterday, high 30, low 24. Weather map, Page No.

Kansas Prosecutor Demands Files On Late-Term Abortion Patients

By JODI WILGOREN

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 24 — Attorney General Phill Kline, a Republican who has made fighting abortion a staple of his two years in the post, is demanding the complete medical files of scores of women and girls who had late-term abortions, saying on Thursday that he needs the information to prosecute criminal cases.

Mr. Kline emphasized statutory rape at a news conference here but also spoke obliquely of other crimes that court documents suggest could include doctors' providing illegal late-term abortions and health professionals' failing to heed a state law that requires the reporting of suspected child sexual abuse.

"When a 10-, 11- or 12-year-old child is pregnant, under Kansas law that child has been raped, and as the state's chief law enforcement official it is my obligation to investigate child rape in order to protect Kansas children," Mr. Kline said. "There are two things that child predators want, access to children and secrecy. As attorney general, I'm bound and determined not to give them either."

He declined to answer questions about his investigation.

Advocates on both sides of the abortion issue said the broad investigation, backed by a judge's subpoena, is the first of its kind in pursuit of criminal charges, although the fed-

eral Justice Department has unsuccessfully sought similar records in its defense of a ban on sometimes used to end after the first trimester, call intact dilation and that critics call abortion.

Kansas is one of have passed laws to the procedure. But K ban it outright, allow tions if women's h gered.

Mr. Kline's eff records from abort his failed attempt quire the state's report any sexua younger than 16, sent in Kansas.

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