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4					
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6	Attorneys for Plaintiffs				
7	Thorneys for I turnings				
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
9	COUNTY OF ORANGE				
10	E.F., an individual; and G.H., an individual,	Case No.			
11	Plaintiffs,				
12	V.	COMPLAINT			
13 14	FPG LABS, LLC d/b/a OVATION	1. NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION			
15	FERTILITY; FPG SERVICES, LLC d/b/a OVATION FERTILITY NEWPORT BEACH;	2. FRAUD / FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT			
16	and DOES 1-50, inclusive,	3. INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION			
17	Defendants.	4. BAILMENT 5. CONVERSION			
18		6. MEDICAL BATTERY 7. NEGLIGENT HIRING AND			
19		SUPERVISION 8. PREMISES LIABILITY			
20		9. NEGLIGENCE			
21		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL			
22					
23					
24	Plaintiffs E.F. and G.H. (collectively, "Plaintiffs") respectfully bring this Complaint and				
25					
26	SERVICES, LLC d/b/a OVATION FERTILITY NEWPORT BEACH; and DOES 1-50, inclusive				
27	(collectively, "Defendants" or "Ovation"), and al	llege as follows:			
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1. Ovation killed Plaintiffs' embryo. As a result, Plaintiffs might not be able to have children who are biologically related to them.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 2. Ovation markets and sells to the public their fertility services, including embryo transfers through in vitro fertilization ("IVF"). Ovation falsely claims that it uses "best practices" and "the highest standards" in its fertility laboratory.
- 3. Comforted by Defendants' marketing statements and representations, Plaintiffs entrusted their embryos to Ovation's facility in Newport Beach, California.
- 4. Unbeknownst to Plaintiffs, Ovation wrongfully used hydrogen peroxide in an incubator into which it placed embryos, including Plaintiffs' precious embryo ("Toxic Incubator"). Ovation's Toxic Incubator killed Plaintiffs' embryo.
- 5. Ovation then transferred Plaintiffs' dead embryo to Plaintiff E.F. Because the embryo was dead prior to transfer, there was no chance that E.F. would become pregnant, and in fact, E.F. did not become pregnant.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff E.F. is a citizen of Orange County, California.
- 7. Plaintiff G.H. is a citizen of Orange County, California.
- 8. Given the sensitive nature of their claims, Plaintiffs are using pseudonymous initials in this litigation to protect their privacy. If the Court so requires, Plaintiffs will seek permission to proceed under these pseudonyms.
- 9. Defendant FPG LABS, LLC d/b/a OVATION FERTILITY is and at all relative times herein was, upon information and belief, a limited liability company that operates fertility clinics throughout the country, including in Orange County.
- 10. Defendant FPG SERVICES, LLC d/b/a OVATION FERTILITY is and at all relative times herein was, upon information and belief, a limited liability company that operates fertility clinics throughout the country, including in Orange County.

- 11. Defendant OVATION FERTILITY NEWPORT BEACH ("Ovation Newport") is, upon information and belief, a facility operating in Newport Beach, California and providing fertility services such as IVF, including to Plaintiffs.
- 12. Plaintiffs are unaware of the true names or capacities, whether they are individuals or business entities, of Defendants DOES 1-50, and therefore sue them by such fictitious names pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Plaintiffs will seek leave of this Court to insert the true names and capacities once they have been ascertained.
- 13. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that at all times material hereto: Defendants were, actually or ostensibly, the agents, representatives, and/or employees of each and every other Defendant; Defendants were acting within the course and scope of said alternative personality, capacity, identity, agency, representation, and/or employment; Defendants were the trustees, partners, servants, joint venturers, shareholders, co-conspirators, contractors, and/or employees of each and every other Defendant; the acts and omissions alleged herein, while committed individually, were made by Defendants through such capacity, and within the scope of their authority, and with the permission and consent of each and every other Defendant, as to make Defendants jointly and severally liable to Plaintiffs for the acts and omissions alleged herein.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 14. This Court has jurisdiction over the entire action by virtue of the fact that this is a civil action wherein the matter in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the jurisdictional minimum of the Court.
- 15. This Court has personal jurisdiction over all Defendants. Each Defendant is, and at all relevant times herein was, a citizen of and/or authorized to conduct business in the State of California and/or conducted such business within the State of California, including the actions, dealings, and/or omissions that caused or contributed to the harm giving rise to this action.
- 16. Jurisdiction is proper pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 410.10 because the actions and/or omissions of Defendants that give rise to this legal action occurred in Orange County, California.

17. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 395.5 because one or more Defendants reside in Orange County and the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the injuries alleged herein occurred in Orange County.

GENERAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

General Background of Assisted Reproductive Technology ("ART")

- 18. ART involves fertility-related treatments in which human eggs or embryos are manipulated. The most common type of ART is IVF.
- 19. During the IVF process, eggs are extracted from a woman and fertilized in a laboratory with sperm to create a viable embryo. Later in the IVF process, the embryo is transplanted into a uterus.
- 20. The process of extracting human eggs from a woman is lengthy, physically and emotionally painful, and expensive. It typically requires significant medication, including injections; frequent bloodwork to monitor hormone levels; monitoring through ultrasound and other scans to check the development of the eggs; and performing a surgical procedure to collect the eggs.
- 21. Following the collection of the eggs, sperm is mixed with the eggs in a laboratory to create embryos, and media is used to cultivate the embryos.
- 22. Many people, including Plaintiffs, elect to have their embryos stored for a period of time before the embryo is transferred to a woman's uterus.
- 23. There can be many reasons for undergoing these expensive and extensive procedures well in advance of the embryo implantation, including that human eggs are a limited and precious resource. A woman has a limited number of eggs at birth, and this supply diminishes as part of the natural aging process (commonly referred to as a "biological clock"). Moreover, not only does the quantity of a woman's eggs diminish with time, but so does egg quality, with miscarriages and chromosomal abnormalities occurring more frequently for women who are older. The most determinative factor in IVF success is the woman's age when her eggs were extracted.

The Importance of IVF Incubators

24. During IVF, it is crucial to maintain appropriate atmospheric conditions for the

proper growth, development, and survival of the embryo. Prior to transfer of a formerly frozen embryo, the embryo is placed into an incubator. A properly cleaned and well-functioning incubator provides the necessary conditions for the continued viability of an embryo.

- 25. Incubators, when used properly, provide the correct temperature, humidity, pH levels, and essential gasses for embryos.
- 26. Appropriate levels of temperature, humidity, pH levels, and gases are critical to ensure that embryos are not harmed.

Ovation's Misrepresentations

- 27. At all relevant times, Ovation has represented (and continues to represent) to its customers, including Plaintiffs, on its website that it operates a "premier" laboratory" that implements "best practices."
- 28. At all relevant times, Ovation has represented (and continues to represent) to its customers, including Plaintiffs, on its website that its laboratory operates with "the highest standards."
- 29. In January 2024, Ovation further represented to Plaintiffs in written material that Ovation "use[s] the most advanced technologies available in order to promote a successful outcome."
- 30. These statements are false. No laboratory that implements "best practices," operates with "the highest standards," and "uses the most advanced technologies available" would create the conditions of the Toxic Incubator, use the Toxic Incubator, and place Plaintiffs' embryo into the Toxic Incubator.

Ovation's Toxic Incubator

- 31. Plaintiffs' embryo was placed in an incubator that was owned, operated, and monitored by Defendants prior to transfer to Plaintiff E.F.
- 32. Defendants introduced into its embryo incubator an extremely unsafe amount of a substance that is toxic to human embryos, hydrogen peroxide. Defendants then placed Plaintiffs' embryo, among other embryos, into the Toxic Incubator before transferring the embryo to Plaintiff E.F.

- 33. Defendants, and each of them, were responsible for ensuring that the Toxic Incubator was properly monitored and that their employees were properly trained on how to operate the incubator to ensure that embryos were not harmed.
- 34. Moreover, Defendants, and each of them, were responsible for adequately training and supervising Defendants' employees and/or agents who monitored, cleaned, repaired, and/or maintained the incubator.

Ovation Lacked Proper Procedures and Protocols to Ensure that the Toxic Incubator Would Not Harm Plaintiffs' Embryos

- 35. Upon information and belief, Defendants did not properly train their employees, agents, and/or persons working at their clinics on how to operate, manage, or maintain the embryo incubator.
- 36. However, Defendants represented to Plaintiffs that they had proper policies and procedures pertaining to usage of their embryo incubator and that such were sufficient to ensure that Defendants' conduct would not harm Plaintiffs' embryos.
- 37. Defendants further warranted that their policies and procedures pertaining to the storage of Plaintiffs' embryos in the incubator were sufficient to ensure that Defendants' conduct would not harm Plaintiffs' embryos.
- 38. In addition, Defendants represented to Plaintiffs at the time of the transfer of Plaintiffs' embryo in January 2024 that the embryo was viable and had not been harmed, despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known that such was not true.

Plaintiffs' Embryo Was Destroyed by Ovation's Misconduct.

- 39. Plaintiffs utilized ART to try to fulfill their dream of having biological children. To that end, Plaintiffs entrusted Ovation to assist them with having a child.
- 40. Plaintiff E.F. underwent an egg retrieval in approximately April 2023. From that, using Plaintiff G.H.'s sperm, Plaintiffs had only one genetically normal embryo.
- 41. Plaintiffs entrusted their sole precious embryo into Defendants' possession until Plaintiffs were ready for an embryo transfer and to start their family.
 - 42. Tragically, and unbeknownst to Plaintiffs at the time, when their embryo was

foregoing duties, Plaintiffs have been deprived of the opportunity to use their embryo, and have

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1	suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial.			
2	SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
3	MEDICAL BATTERY			
4	(Against All Defendants)			
5	77. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference herein each and every allegation			
6	contained in all other paragraphs in this Complaint as though fully set forth in this cause of action.			
7	78. By performing a procedure to which Plaintiff E.F. did not consent—transferring an			
8	embryo that Defendants had killed, and thus had no chance of resulting in a pregnancy—			
9	Defendants, by and through their employees, intentionally and offensively touched Plaintiff E.F.			
10	without her consent.			
11	79. As a result of Defendants' battery, Plaintiffs have suffered and will suffer			
12	substantial damages and such battery was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm and			
13	damages.			
14	SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
15	NEGLIGENT HIRING AND SUPERVISION OF EMPLOYEES			
16	(Against All Defendants)			
17	80. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference herein each and every allegation			
18	contained in all other paragraphs in this Complaint as though fully set forth in this cause of action.			
18 19	contained in all other paragraphs in this Complaint as though fully set forth in this cause of action. 81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by			
19	81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by			
19 20	81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by their actions and/or inactions, the Toxic Incubator to destroy Plaintiffs' embryo.			
19 20 21	81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by their actions and/or inactions, the Toxic Incubator to destroy Plaintiffs' embryo. 82. Defendants knew and/or should have known that their employees and/or agents			
19 20 21 22	81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by their actions and/or inactions, the Toxic Incubator to destroy Plaintiffs' embryo. 82. Defendants knew and/or should have known that their employees and/or agents were unfit, not properly trained, and/or incompetent to monitor or use the embryo incubator.			
19 20 21 22 23	81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by their actions and/or inactions, the Toxic Incubator to destroy Plaintiffs' embryo. 82. Defendants knew and/or should have known that their employees and/or agents were unfit, not properly trained, and/or incompetent to monitor or use the embryo incubator. 83. Defendants' hiring, supervision, and/or training of employees and/or agents			
19 20 21 22 23 24	81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by their actions and/or inactions, the Toxic Incubator to destroy Plaintiffs' embryo. 82. Defendants knew and/or should have known that their employees and/or agents were unfit, not properly trained, and/or incompetent to monitor or use the embryo incubator. 83. Defendants' hiring, supervision, and/or training of employees and/or agents responsible for toxic substances to contact Plaintiffs' embryo was a substantial factor in causing			
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by their actions and/or inactions, the Toxic Incubator to destroy Plaintiffs' embryo. 82. Defendants knew and/or should have known that their employees and/or agents were unfit, not properly trained, and/or incompetent to monitor or use the embryo incubator. 83. Defendants' hiring, supervision, and/or training of employees and/or agents responsible for toxic substances to contact Plaintiffs' embryo was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm and damages.			
119 220 221 222 223 224 225 226	81. Defendants, and each of them, hired the employees and/or agents that caused, by their actions and/or inactions, the Toxic Incubator to destroy Plaintiffs' embryo. 82. Defendants knew and/or should have known that their employees and/or agents were unfit, not properly trained, and/or incompetent to monitor or use the embryo incubator. 83. Defendants' hiring, supervision, and/or training of employees and/or agents responsible for toxic substances to contact Plaintiffs' embryo was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm and damages. ///			

1	EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
2	PREMISES LIABILITY			
3	(Against Ovation Newport Beach)			
4	84. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference herein each and every allegation			
5	contained in all other paragraphs in this Complaint as though fully set forth in this cause of action			
6	85. At all relevant times material to Plaintiffs' claims, Ovation Newport Beach owned			
7	leased, occupied, and/or controlled the fertility clinic operated under its name for which Plaintiffs			
8	sought fertility treatment and to whom entrusted their sole viable embryo.			
9	86. Ovation Newport Beach created a dangerous and hazardous environment in that it			
0	did not properly maintain its clinic, including but not limited to its Toxic Incubator that was			
1	located on Ovation's premises.			
2	87. Ovation Newport Beach, as Plaintiffs' fertility clinic, owed a duty of care to			
3	Plaintiffs to ensure that Plaintiffs' embryo was properly stored and cared for such that Plaintiffs'			
4	embryo was viable when Plaintiffs elected to transfer such.			
5	88. Ovation Newport Beach also owed Plaintiffs a duty of care to exercise ordinary			
6	care in its management of its IVF facility to avoid damage or destruction of embryos, including			
7	but not limited to management and maintenance of its incubators.			
8	89. Defendants breach these foregoing duties and destroyed Plaintiffs' embryo.			
9	90. As a direct and proximate result of Ovation Newport Beach's conduct, Plaintiffs			
20	have suffered and will suffer substantial damages, and Ovation Newport Beach's acts and/or			
21	omissions were a substantial factor in causing such harm.			
22	NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION			
23	NEGLIGENCE			
24	(Against All Defendants)			
25	91. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference herein each and every allegation			
26	contained in all other paragraphs in this Complaint as though fully set forth in this cause of action			
27	92. At all relevant times, Defendants and their agents and/or employees undertook to			
۱ ۵	treat monitor and care for Plaintiffs and their embryo Defendants, and each of them had a duty			

the time of trial;

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1	3)	For punitive damages in a	n amount to be determined at the time of trial;
2	4)	For costs of suit herein;	
3	5)	For pre- and post-judgement interest as allowed by law; and	
4	6)	For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.	
5	DATED: Ap	oril 18, 2024	PEIFFER WOLF CARR KANE CONWAY &
6			WISE, LLP
7			Ad Worg
8			By: ADAM B. WOLF
9			MELISA A. ROSADINI-KNOTT
10			Attorneys for Plaintiffs
11			
12			
13	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		
14	Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all claims so triable.		
15	DATED: Ap	oril 18, 2024	PEIFFER WOLF CARR KANE CONWAY &
16			WISE, LLP
17			Ad Wolf
18			By: ADAM B. WOLF
19			MELISA A. ROSADINI-KNOTT
20			Attorneys for Plaintiffs
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