

Warrant out for activist who made abortion film

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An anti-abortion activist whose secretly filmed videos caused an outcry last year has been indicted by a Texas grand jury for tampering with government records.

A warrant was issued for the arrest of David Daleiden, founder of the Centre for Medical Progress pressure group, after an investigation into alleged misconduct by Planned Parenthood, the reproductive health organisation that his videos targeted, found no evidence of wrongdoing.

The surprise outcome was hailed as a landmark victory by supporters of abortion rights but denounced as politically motivated by opponents.

CMP began publishing videos last year alleging that Planned Parenthood, a national network of more than 700 healthcare centres, was breaking federal laws by selling foetal tissue for profit. Planned Parenthood has denied the accusations and claims that the videos were misleadingly edited.

Greg Abbott, the Republican governor of Texas, who ordered the investigation of a Houston clinic in July after it featured in one of the videos, said that the Planned Parenthood investigation would go on. "The state of Texas will continue to protect life," he added.

The Harris County grand jury began hearing evidence against Planned Parenthood in November, but switched focus as new information was uncovered.

Mr. Daleiden and Sandra Merritt, a fellow activist, both face charges of tampering with a governmental record, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years.