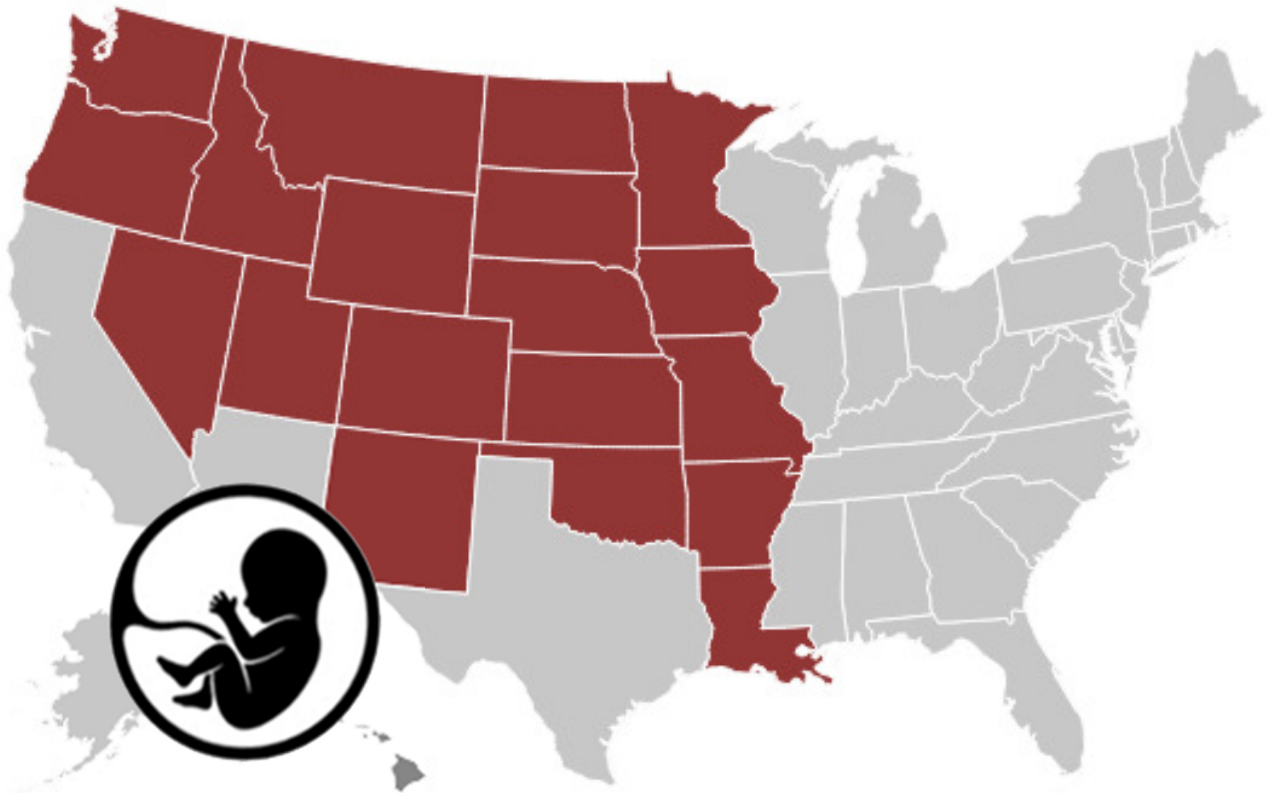


# The Truth About Abortion

---



*The population of these 19 shaded states \* equals the approximate number of babies killed in the 62,000,000+ reported surgical abortions since 1973.*

\*According to U.S. Census Bureau

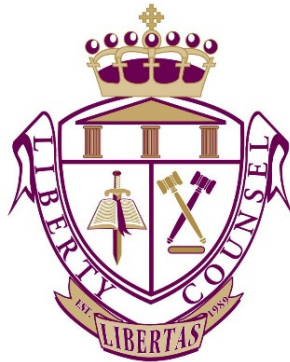
*“For you [God] created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”  
Psalm 139:13-14 NIV*

Presented by Liberty Counsel

Warning: The following content contains graphics that may be disturbing to some readers.

## Table of Contents

Stages of Pregnancy.....	3
Types of Abortion.....	4
Abortion Statistics.....	5
Who Is Having Abortions?.....	6
Health Risks Associated with Abortion.....	7
Trends in Abortion Legislation.....	9
Agenda of Planned Parenthood.....	10
Key Cases Involving the Legalization of Abortion.....	11
Liberty Counsel and the Right to Human Life.....	13
Frequently Asked Questions About Abortion.....	14
Steps to Taking Pro-life Action.....	15
Glossary.....	16



## Stages of Pregnancy

Fertilization	Fertilization normally takes place within one day of intercourse but can occur up to six days later. Genetic information such as gender, eye color, hair color, facial features are determined. <sup>1</sup>
<i>First Trimester</i> 4 weeks (Embryo)	Vital organs are forming and signs of the brain and the beginning of the spine are evident. <sup>2</sup>
5 Weeks	Heart begins to beat and circulate blood. Arm and leg buds emerge. Brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are established. <sup>3</sup>
6 Weeks	Digestive system, eyes, and ears are forming, and arms and legs continue to grow. Neural systems are more defined and heart beat can be detected by ultrasound. <sup>4</sup>
8 Weeks (Fetus)	Face, fingers, toes, elbows, knees, eyelids and bone cells are forming. <sup>5</sup>
12 Weeks	Fingers and toes are moving, teeth buds are present, and the kidney and bladder form. Baby is 4" long and weighs about one ounce. <sup>6</sup>
<i>Second Trimester</i> 16 Weeks	Baby moves and kicks, sleeps and wakes, swallows, hair forms and digestion becomes active. Sex determination is possible. <sup>7</sup>
18 Weeks	Spurt in baby's growth, internal organs are maturing and hair, eyebrows and lashes are present. Baby increases storage of iron. <sup>8</sup>
24 Weeks	If born prematurely, survival with medical treatment is possible at this point in development.
<i>Third Trimester</i> 28 Weeks	Most rapid growth and increase of baby's weight. Begins to respond to outside stimulus like sound and light. <sup>9</sup>
31 Weeks	Weight gain and rapid growth; settles in favorite position; valuable fat increases. <sup>10</sup>
33 Weeks	Nails on fingers and toes can be seen. Bones are hardening throughout the body, but head remains soft and flexible. <sup>11</sup>
Birth (38–40 Weeks)	Baby is ready to be born with developed organs and mature respiratory system.

**Fetal Growth From 8 to 40 Weeks**



## Types of Abortions

### **Vacuum Aspiration:**

A method of abortion performed during the first trimester, in which the contents of the uterus are withdrawn by suction through a narrow tube. Also called *suction curettage*, *vacuum curettage*.<sup>12</sup>

### **Dilation and Curettage:**

A medical procedure in which the uterine cervix is dilated and a curette is inserted into the uterus to scrape away tissue (as for the diagnosis or treatment of abnormal bleeding) or for surgical abortion during the early part of the second trimester of pregnancy--also called D&C.<sup>13</sup>

### **Dilation and Evacuation:**

A surgical abortion that is typically performed midway during the second trimester of pregnancy and in which the uterine cervix is dilated and “fetal tissue” (i.e. the baby) is removed using surgical instruments (such as forceps and a curette) and suction— also called D&E.<sup>14</sup>

### **Dilation and Extraction:**

A surgical abortion that is typically performed during the third trimester or latter part of the second trimester of pregnancy. The uterine cervix is dilated and delivery of the baby is induced feet-first through the birth canal. Surgical instruments are used to pierce the skull of the mostly-born child— also called D&X, or partial-birth abortion.<sup>15</sup>

### **Partial Birth Abortion:**

This late-term abortion is illegal in the United States (*Gonzales v Carhart*, 2007). Guided by ultrasound, the abortionist reaches into the uterus, grabs the unborn baby’s leg or arm with forceps, and pulls the baby into the birth canal, except for the head, which is deliberately kept just inside the womb. (At this point in a partial-birth abortion, the baby is alive.) Then the abortionist jams scissors or a sharp implement into the back of the baby’s skull and spreads the tips of the scissors apart to enlarge the wound. After removing the scissors, a suction catheter is inserted into the skull and the baby’s brains are sucked out. The collapsed head and the rest of the baby are then removed from the uterus. Also known as Dilation and Extraction, or D&X.<sup>16</sup>

### **RU486 (Mifepristone):**

An anti-progesterone drug used in combination with a prostaglandin, to procure early abortion (up to the tenth week in pregnancy). It is administered only in hospitals or recognized clinics and a success rate of 95 percent is claimed.<sup>17</sup> However, some states (such as Kansas and Michigan) allow doctors to prescribe the pill over a video call. This is called a telemedicine abortion.<sup>18, 19</sup>

### **Saline Amniocentesis:**

Also known as "hypertonic saline" abortion, this method is utilized when the amniotic fluid sac has formed around the baby around 16 weeks of pregnancy. “A needle is inserted through the mother’s abdomen and 50-250 ml (as much as a cup) of amniotic fluid is withdrawn and replaced with a solution of concentrated salt. The baby breathes in, swallowing the salt, and is poisoned. The chemical solution also causes painful burning and deterioration of the baby’s skin. Usually, after about an hour, the child dies. The mother goes into labor about 33 to 35 hours after instillation and delivers a dead, burned, and shriveled baby. About 97 percent of mothers deliver their dead babies within 72 hours.”<sup>20</sup>

### **Abortifacients:**

Pills and other forms of birth control are often described as contraceptives even though they often take effect after fertilization, the moment life begins. Hormones such as progesterone are found in birth control pills, implants, or injections that potentially thin uterine walls inside a woman and stop a conceived baby from developing. Other drugs such as Plan B One-Step work directly to prevent development after conception.<sup>21</sup> The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) renamed these abortifacients as contraceptives, even though the FDA acknowledges that these drugs often work after fertilization.<sup>22</sup>

*“If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people to not kill one another?...Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want.”*

- Mother Teresa<sup>23</sup>

## Abortion Statistics

**Approximate number of abortions in the United States per year: 926,200 (2014)<sup>24</sup>**

In 2014, approximately **926,000 abortions** took place in the U.S., down from an estimated 1.06 million in 2011, 1.21 million in 2005, and 1.31 million in 2000. From 1973 through 2005, more than 45 million legal abortions have occurred in the U.S.<sup>25</sup>

**Since the instituting of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, there have been 60+ MILLION ABORTIONS.**<sup>26</sup>

Approximately 45 percent (almost half!) of all pregnancies among American women are unintended. In 2014, **19 percent of all U.S. pregnancies ended in abortion.**<sup>27</sup>



*Roe v. Wade* legalized abortions up until the third trimester (28 weeks) when the fetus is deemed “viable”, **UNLESS** the mother is attempting to preserve her health. One example from *Roe V. Wade* of what may be considered harmful to a mother's health is “**child care.**” This essentially makes it possible for a legal abortion to be obtained at any point in pregnancy.<sup>28</sup> In the 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* case, the Supreme Court went even further in diminishing the parameters which *Roe v. Wade* had put in place regarding the viability of a fetus, by establishing the “undue burden” rule. Under this clause, an “undue burden” is defined as a “substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking the abortion of a nonviable fetus.” With this ruling no state laws, even those that may be put in place to protect the unborn child, may come between the mother and her “right” to an abortion.<sup>29</sup>

*“...Is it surprising that today we have become so morally blind (for wickedness blinds) that we save the baby whales at great cost, and murder millions of unborn children?”*

## Who Is Having Abortions?

### Race:

- While Caucasian women obtain about 37 percent of all abortions, their abortion rate is well below that of minority women. Black women are *3.7 times* more likely as white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are roughly *1.5 times* more likely.<sup>31</sup>
- According to the most recent census data<sup>32</sup>, black women make up 12.7 percent of the female population in America, but account for 36 percent of all U.S. abortions. Hispanic women account for 17.5 percent of all U.S. abortions, though they make up just 16.2 percent of the female population. Non-Hispanic, white women, who make up 63.4 percent of America's female population, account for nearly 37 percent of all U.S. abortions.<sup>33</sup>

### Age:

- 41 percent of U.S. women obtaining abortions are *younger than age 25*.
- Women aged 20-24 obtain 31.1 percent of all U.S. abortions and teenagers obtain about 10 percent.
- Adolescents under 15 years obtain less than 1 percent of all abortions, but have the *highest abortion ratio*, 701 abortions for every 1,000 live births.<sup>34</sup>

### Marital Status:

- In 2015, 86.3 percent of all abortions were performed on unmarried women.
- The abortion ratio for unmarried women is 327 abortions for every 1,000 live births. For married women, it is 34 abortions for every 1,000 live births.<sup>35</sup>

### Economic Status:

- Women living with low household incomes account for three-fourths of abortion patients.
- In 2014, 49 percent of women who received an abortion lived below the federal poverty line.<sup>36</sup>

### Religion:

- Women who consider themselves Protestants account for 30 percent of all abortions, and Catholics account for 24 percent in the United States. Women of other faiths (Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc.) are responsible for 8 percent, while 38 percent have no religious affiliation.<sup>37</sup>

### Frequency:

- 43 percent of women who have abortions had at least one previous abortion.
- 59 percent of females choosing abortion have already carried and given birth to at least one child before their abortion.<sup>38</sup>

## **Reasons women give for having an abortion...**

While various reasons are cited for a woman's abortion, the majority of them are for concerns other than health issues. Only 1.5 percent of all abortions reportedly occur because of rape or incest.<sup>39</sup> About **75 percent of all abortions occur for social reasons (i.e., the child is unwanted or inconvenient)**.

### **Breakdown of Social Reasons:**

- Sense of responsibility to other individuals
- Unable to financially support a child
- Baby would interfere with work, school or the caring for other dependents
- Fear of being a single mother due to having problems with their husband or partner.<sup>40</sup>

## **Health Risks Associated with Abortion**

*"In medical practice, there are few surgical procedures given so little attention and so underrated in its potential hazards as abortion. It is a commonly held view that complications are inevitable."*

*- Dr. Warren Hern, **Abortionist**<sup>41</sup>*

### **Physical Health Risks<sup>42</sup>**

#### ***Surgical Risks***

There are many surgical risks associated with abortion, including hemorrhaging, infection, cervix laceration, and uterus perforation. If a woman hemorrhages during or from an abortion, she may require a blood transfusion and risks getting hepatitis. Cervix laceration increases a woman's risk of miscarriage in future pregnancies, and uterus perforation can cause peritonitis. Peritonitis is a condition where the abdominal lining is inflamed and becomes infected; it is "similar to having a ruptured appendix."<sup>43</sup>

#### ***Breast Cancer***

Females who have undergone an abortion procedure may increase their risk of developing breast cancer later in life. Since the national legalization of abortion in 1973, rates for breast cancer have risen 50 percent.

#### ***Ectopic (Tubal) Pregnancy***

This condition happens when a fertilized egg attaches and the embryo begins development outside the uterus. This abnormality is dangerous and can cause the mother to bleed to death if a rupture occurs and emergency medical treatment is not obtained quickly. Abortion increases the risk of ectopic pregnancy anywhere from 8 to 20 times. Research has proven that one abortion procedure increases a woman's risk for having an ectopic pregnancy by 30 percent and having two or more abortions raises the risk 160 percent.

#### ***Other Consequences for Future Pregnancies***

Having an abortion puts both the mother and her future children in risk of various complications during a future pregnancy and delivery. Besides risk of an ectopic pregnancy, there is a higher probability bleeding will occur in the first trimester and delivery by Cesarean is more likely to be

needed. Women who have had two or more abortions are also at a higher risk of miscarrying in the future.

The baby is at an increased risk with a higher chance to be underweight or born prematurely. This can result in various physical problems. These babies (born from a womb which has undergone an abortion in the past) are twice as likely to die a few months after birth.

### ***Becoming Sterile***

Approximately 2-5 percent of women are rendered sterile after having an abortion as part of her body's response to the procedure or physician error. Secondary infertility is three to four times more likely after an abortion.

### ***Sexual Dysfunction***

“Thirty to fifty percent of aborted women report experiencing sexual dysfunctions, of both short and long duration, beginning immediately after their abortions. These problems may include one or more of the following: loss of pleasure from intercourse, increased pain, an aversion to sex and/or males in general, or the development of a promiscuous life-style.”<sup>44</sup>

### **Mental Health Risks**

#### ***Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS):***

Professional psychiatrists and counselors who have interacted with women after their decision to undergo an abortion can identify strong parallels between the suffering of their patient compared to dealing with PTSD or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This disorder is a mental and emotional illness as the result of a traumatic experience and can inhibit the daily functions of an individual. As a result of having an abortion, many women have needed professional help to cope with various issues including “intense fear, anxiety, sense of helplessness, feeling of loss of control, emotional numbing, difficulty recalling event, guilt, pain, grief, depression, irritability, angry outbursts, aggressive behavior, sleep difficulties, sexual dysfunction, flashbacks, nightmares, anniversary reactions, withdrawal from relationships, avoidance of children, pessimism regarding future, drug and/or alcohol abuse, and suicidal thoughts.”<sup>45</sup>

A British study in 2011 at the Royal College of Psychiatric found correlations between abortion and destructive behavior, determining that women who chose abortion are 81 percent more likely to experience mental health issues. By comparing women who had undergone an abortion procedure with those who had not, the post-abortive women had a 34 percent higher rate for anxiety, 37 percent for depression, 110 percent more likely to abuse alcohol, 230 percent to use marijuana, and 155 percent more had experimented with suicidal actions.<sup>46</sup>

#### **\*Note:**

Despite all the research and scientific evidence, Planned Parenthood's website claims: “there's no risk to your future pregnancies or to your overall health...It doesn't cause problems for future pregnancies like birth defects, premature birth or low birth weight, ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, or infant death.”<sup>47</sup>

*However:* In 2007, *The Journal of Reproductive Medicine* cited that multiple studies (59) had established a statistical connection the risk of premature births in women who had aborted a previous pregnancy. The results from these studies also show that the risk is even higher if the



mother has undergone multiple procedures. Premature babies (born before 32 weeks) often require intensive care after birth and suffer various health complications due to underdevelopment.<sup>48</sup>

## **Trends in Abortion Legislation**

Former President Barack Obama once said that “no one is pro-abortion,” only pro-choice. This political distinction between empowering women and disposing of a human baby contradicts the former administration’s actions (funding abortion providers and repealing health restrictions for their clinics). Since the election of President Trump, however, the government’s approach towards the controversial subject is shifting in an encouraging direction for the pro-life stance. From January to May of 2017, almost 50 new bills regulating or restricting abortion were introduced to various state legislation bodies across the nation.<sup>49</sup>

### **Defunding Planned Parenthood**

- Criticism of Obama’s health care policies include growing protests to the \$500 million given to annually fund Planned Parenthood by the federal government.<sup>50</sup>
- In January 2019, state courts granted Texas permission to defund Planned Parenthood and prohibit it from receiving Medicaid funding from the state.<sup>51</sup>
- In 2017, the state of Missouri passed HB 2011 which removes government support from abortion providers or abortion funding affiliation groups.<sup>52</sup>

### **Ultrasound Legislation**

- Introduced by Representative James Mills in 2007, Georgia legislators felt led to enact bills such as Senate Bill 147, which requires that pregnant females undergo an ultrasound or sonogram before having an abortion.<sup>53</sup>
- As of 2017, 26 states have regulations regarding ultrasounds prior to an abortion. Of the fourteen states requiring ultrasounds of the unborn child be offered, Louisiana, Kentucky, Wisconsin and Texas currently have strongest requirements in place to ensure an ultrasound and critical information is given to a woman before she chooses abortion for her baby.<sup>54</sup>
- Agencies that support abortion have filed suit against the ultrasound movement and informed consent. In 2017, Kentucky’s legislation requiring ultrasounds be shown and explained to the mother before any abortive procedure was challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union. The Supreme Court subsequently overturned the law, claiming the law “violates the free-speech rights of the patient and doctor.”<sup>55</sup>

### **Concerning Legal Constraints**

- Abortion is excluded from public funding and unavailable to military personnel and their dependents as a medical procedure.
- Abortion is a common medical procedure that is not routinely taught in medical schools. It is also a procedure that doctors and pharmacists can decline to perform.<sup>56</sup>
- Abortion facilities, providers, and patients are subject to unprecedented and increasing regulation.

Hopefully, the developing legislation supporting ultrasounds, the defunding of Planned Parenthood, and illegalizing abortions post 20 weeks will continue to be pursued by lawmakers for the sake of millions of unborn children.

*"America, you are beautiful...and blessed...The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life."*

- Pope John Paul II<sup>57</sup>

## Agenda of Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood Federation for America (PPFA) boasts on its website “About Us” page: “Planned Parenthood is a trusted health care provider, an informed educator, a passionate advocate, and a global partner helping similar organizations around the world. Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of people worldwide.”<sup>58</sup> Don’t let the name fool you though; “parenthood” is least on their list of priorities. According to Planned Parenthood’s 2015-2016 Annual Report there were nearly 35 abortion patients for every one patient receiving prenatal care, and abortions outnumbered adoption referrals by a margin greater than 113 to one.<sup>59</sup>

### **The Political Agenda**

Planned Parenthood is perhaps the nation’s largest advocate for abortion in state and federal legislatures, challenging “right to know” laws, parental involvement laws, partial-birth abortion bans, and demanding taxpayer funding of abortion.

### **Targeting Minorities**

Planned Parenthood abortion clinics are most commonly found in communities with large minority populations. Though the argument is that these communities are most in need of free healthcare services, the desire to decrease or at least limit the black population was a driving motivator for Planned Parenthood's founder, Margaret Sanger. She once wrote, "We do not want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population."<sup>60</sup>

As previously stated in this packet, African American women account for 12.7 percent of the female population in America. However, they obtain almost 40 percent of abortions that occur annually throughout the United States.<sup>61</sup> This ratio discrepancy is put into perspective when it can be said that abortion is the number one cause death for the African American population. Regardless of the motives in place by Planned Parenthood administration, abortion does target the minority population unjustly and no action is being taken by Planned Parenthood to prevent it.<sup>62</sup>

### **Unethical Profit Motive**

In recent news, Planned Parenthood officials have been caught as profiting from the body parts and organs of aborted babies. Former president Cecile Richards had a salary of \$600,000 annually, and has benefited from receiving abortions of her own for birth control purposes.<sup>63</sup> Videos and investigative work done by pro-life activists like Sandra Merritt and David Daleiden have proof of Planned Parenthood's lies when it comes to how they interact with expecting mothers and what is done with the baby after the abortion. For exposing Planned Parenthood's disturbing source of income, Sandra Merritt has been charged with fifteen felony charges and was imprisoned with an absurd bail of \$75,000. Liberty Counsel was able to raise funds to bail out Merritt and continues to battle for the sanctity of life by representing Merritt in her continuing trial.<sup>64</sup>



*(Picture of baby's body after abortion in first trimester)*

## Key Cases Involving the Legalization of Abortion

### ***Roe v. Wade* (1973)**

#### Facts of the Case:

A Texas woman, under the alias of “Jane Roe” to protect her identity, sought to terminate her pregnancy by abortion. Texas law prohibited abortions except to save a pregnant woman's life. After granting certiorari, the Court heard arguments twice. The first time, Roe's attorney, Sarah Weddington, could not locate the constitutional hook of her argument for Justice Potter Stewart. Her opponent, Jay Floyd, misfired from the start. Weddington sharpened her constitutional argument in the second round. Her new opponent, Robert Flowers, came under strong questioning from Justices Potter Stewart and Thurgood Marshall.

#### Question:

Does the Constitution embrace a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy by abortion?

#### Conclusion:

The Court held that a woman's right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy (recognized in *Griswold v. Connecticut*) protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision gave a woman total autonomy over the pregnancy during the first trimester and defined different levels of state interest for the second and third trimesters. As a result, the laws of forty-six states were affected by the Court's ruling.<sup>65</sup>

### ***Doe v. Bolton* (1973)**

#### Summary:

*Doe v. Bolton* is the companion case for *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark Supreme Court case that established a “substantive due process” right to abortion. In *Roe*, Justice Harry Blackmun wrote that *Roe* and *Doe* “are to be read together.” In this 7-2 opinion by Justice Blackmun, the Court elaborated on the “health exception” established in *Roe*. In cases where an abortion is necessary in order to preserve the life or health of the mother, the state must permit an abortion even after viability. According to the majority, the doctor’s medical judgment as to the health of the mother may be “exercised in the light of all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age—relevant to the wellbeing of the patient.”<sup>66</sup>

### ***Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992)**

#### Facts of the Case:

The Pennsylvania legislature amended its abortion law in 1988 and 1989. Among the new provisions, the law required informed consent and a twenty-four-hour waiting period prior to the procedure. A minor seeking an abortion required the consent of one parent (the law allows for a

judicial bypass procedure). A married woman seeking an abortion had to indicate that she notified her husband of her intention to abort the child. Several abortion clinics and physicians challenged these provisions. A federal appeals court upheld all the provisions except for the spousal notification requirement.



Question:

Can a state require women who want an abortion to obtain informed consent, wait 24 hours, and, if minors, obtain parental consent, without violating their right to abortion as guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*?

Conclusion:

In a 5-to-4 decision, the Court reaffirmed the basic holding of *Roe*, but upheld the majority of the Pennsylvania provisions. “For the first time, the justices imposed a new standard to determine the validity of laws restricting abortions. The new standard asks whether a state abortion regulation has the purpose or effect of imposing an ‘undue burden,’ which is defined as a ‘substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability.’ Under this standard, the only provision to fail the undue-burden test was the husband notification requirement.” The opinion for the Court was unique: The plurality opinion was authored by only three Justices.<sup>67</sup>

***Gonzales v Carhart (2007)***

Facts of the Case: In 2003, Congress passed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act which banned the partial-birth procedure of abortion that killed the baby by puncturing its skull while being delivered out of the birth canal.

Question: Does the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act place undue burden on women trying to access their right to abortive services?

Conclusion: The Supreme Court upheld the federal law which prohibits partial-birth abortions.<sup>22</sup> However, in thirty-one states there is still legal space to perform similar, late-term abortions that are just as horrific and escape from violating “partial-birth” laws because of nuances in procedure and legal definition.<sup>68</sup>

*"Life, no matter how young, is not expendable and, no matter how ill or aged, is not to be weighed on a cost-benefit scale."*

*-Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel<sup>69</sup>*

## Liberty Counsel and the Right to Human Life



Liberty Counsel is a nonprofit litigation, education, and policy organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and marriage and the family. We accomplish this mission through litigation,

education, and public policy. We have been involved in defending human life from fertilization to natural death.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Abortion

### **When does human life begin?**

According to standard biology books used even in public schools: "Human development begins at fertilization, the process during which a male gamete or sperm unites with a female gamete or oocyte (ovum) to form a single cell called a zygote. This highly specialized, totipotent cell marked the beginning of each of us as a unique individual." (pg. 16), "A zygote is the beginning of a new human being (i.e., an embryo)." (pg. 2).<sup>70</sup>

### **After how many weeks of development is a baby able to survive outside the mother's womb?**

Generally, 24 weeks is considered the viability point of the fetus. However, with technology and neonatal intensive care, it has been known that babies born as early as 22 weeks gestation point have survived. Survival for early premature births is rare, however, and the babies are high risk for various conditions and disabilities.<sup>71</sup> Babies born at 24 weeks have between a 60-70% chance of survival; babies born at 28 weeks have an 80-90% chance of survival and a low chance of having health issues.<sup>72</sup>

### **When does the unborn baby's heart begin to beat?**

The heartbeat begins about 21 days after conception.<sup>73</sup>

### **When does the baby's brain begin to function?**

Electrical brain waves have been recorded as early as forty days.<sup>74</sup>

### **When do most abortions occur?**

Eighty-nine percent of all abortions happen during the first trimester, prior to the 13th week, despite the growth and development of organs that occur early on.<sup>75</sup>

### **What does the Bible say about abortion?**

While the Bible never uses the term "abortion," these verses reflect His care for His creation (even in the womb) and His righteous anger at the murdering of the innocent:

*Exodus 20:13 NIV* "You shall not murder."

*Psalms 139:13-16 NIV* "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

*Psalms 106:35-38 NIV* "But they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to false gods.

They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood.”

*Psalms 127:3 NIV* “Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.”

## **Steps to Taking Pro-life Action**

Now that you know the facts regarding the tragedy of abortion in our country, it is important to take a stand against this atrocious act of killing our innocent unborn. Let us not abandon those who cannot yet defend themselves. Let us stand up for their right to life.

Simple tips and resources to help you get involved:

- Pray for those who have been affected by abortion and for our nation as a whole
- Educate yourself in advocating for life
  - Approach your church and encourage the opportunity to educate teens on the personhood of the unborn
- Find and support organizations in your state that are involved in the Pro-Life movement
- Organize a rally with other Pro-Life organizations
  - Create signs to wave on the side of the road
- Vote on Election Day for candidates who are Pro-Life
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or magazine for publication
- Write your local or state Senators and inform them of your stance on life
  - Congress.org is a great way to contact your Representative
- Join or Create Facebook groups and invite others
- Volunteer at a local crisis pregnancy center
- Assist a sidewalk counseling group outside an abortion clinic
- Educate yourself on adoption alternatives, and seek God’s will about the possibility of adopting a child of your own



The key is to stay informed and to stay actively involved. Discuss the facts with your family and friends and inform your pastors and local government of the importance of taking a stand for the sanctity of human life. Please feel free to contact the Liberty Counsel at [liberty@lc.org](mailto:liberty@lc.org) or (407) 875-1776, if you have any questions or would like more information.

## **Glossary**

*Definitions taken from Merriam Webster Dictionary unless otherwise noted<sup>76</sup>*

### **Abortion:**

The termination of a pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus: such as a spontaneous expulsion of a human fetus during the first 12 weeks of gestation

### **Conception:**

The process of becoming pregnant by fertilization or implantation or both

### **Curettage:**

A surgical scraping or cleaning by means of a curette

### **Curette:**

A surgical instrument that has a scoop, ring, or loop at the tip and is used in performing curettage

### **Embryo:**

The developing human individual from the time of implantation to the end of the eighth week after conception

### **Fetus:**

A developing human from usually two months after conception to birth

### **Feticide:**

The act of causing the death of a fetus

### **Genocide:**

The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group

### **Infanticide:**

The killing of an infant



## **Planned Parenthood:**

The collective name of global members of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is the U.S. affiliate of IPPF and one of its larger members. PPFA provides “reproductive healthcare,” maternal, and child health services. The organization's status as the United States' leading provider of surgical abortions has put it in the forefront of national debate over that issue. Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Inc. (PPAF) is a related organization that lobbies the U.S. political system for pro-abortion legislation, comprehensive sex education, and access to affordable health care.\*<sup>77</sup>

## **Selective Reduction/Termination:**

Abortion of one or more but not all embryos in a pregnancy with multiple embryos

## **Therapeutic Abortion:**

Abortion induced when pregnancy constitutes a threat to the physical or mental health of the mother. (Note: What the law constitutes as being a “threat to the mental health of the mother” can even include reasons such as a woman not wanting to work to care for her child. In other words, “therapeutic” abortions may occur for the mother’s personal convenience.)

## **Trimester:**

A period of three or about three months; especially any of three periods of approximately three months each into which a human pregnancy is divided

## **Zygote:**

The result of the sperm successfully fertilizing the ovum. The zygote is a single cell that contains the genetic material of both the mother and the father.<sup>78</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Stages of Development of the Fetus- Women’s Health Issues (n.d.) Retrieved July 6, 2017, from <http://www.merckmanuals.com/home/women-s-health-issues/normal-pregnancy/stages-of-development-of-the-fetus>

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> Fetal Development in the First Trimester (n.d.) Retrieved July 6, 2017, from <http://parentsavvy.com/articles-and-blog/575/>

<sup>4</sup> Fetal Development: Stages of Growth (September 9, 2014). Retrieved July 6, 2017, from <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/fetal-development-stages-of-growth>

<sup>5</sup> Fetal Development in the First Trimester (n.d.) Retrieved July 6, 2017, from <http://parentsavvy.com/articles-and-blog/575/>

<sup>6</sup> Fetal Development: Stages of Growth (September 9, 2014). Retrieved July 6, 2017, from <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/fetal-development-stages-of-growth>

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> Stages of Development of the Fetus- Women’s Health Issues (n.d.) Retrieved July 6, 2017, from <http://www.merckmanuals.com/home/women-s-health-issues/normal-pregnancy/stages-of-development-of-the-fetus>

<sup>9</sup> Fetal Development: Stages of Growth (September 9, 2014). Retrieved July 6, 2017, from <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/fetal-development-stages-of-growth>

<sup>10</sup> Fetal development: What happens during the 3rd trimester? (2017, July 06). Retrieved October 10, 2017, from <http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/pregnancy-week-by-week/in-depth/fetal-development/art-20045997>

<sup>11</sup> Id.

<sup>12</sup> Abortion Techniques: Instillation Methods (n.d.) Retrieved June 26, 2017, from <https://www.nrlc.org/archive/abortion/ASMF/asmf.html>

- 
- <sup>13</sup> Id.
- <sup>14</sup> Id.
- <sup>15</sup> Abortion, Partial Birth (n.d.) Retrieved June 26, 2017, from <http://www.encyclopedia.com/medicine/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/abortion-partial-birth>
- <sup>16</sup> Id.
- <sup>17</sup> Abortion Techniques: Instillation Methods (n.d.) Retrieved June 26, 2017, from <https://www.nrlc.org/archive/abortion/ASMF/asmf.html>
- <sup>18</sup> Sielicki, Bridget (January 7, 2019) "Michigan governor flip-flops, vetoes pro-life telemedicine abortion bill." Retrieved March 27, 2019, from <https://www.liveaction.org/news/michigan-governor-vetoes-abortion-bill/>
- <sup>19</sup> Hausknecht, Bruce (n.d.) "New state laws in 2019." Retrieved March 27, 2019 from <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/understanding-the-issues/new-state-laws-in-2019>
- <sup>20</sup> Abortion Techniques: Instillation Methods (n.d.) Retrieved June 26, 2017, from <https://www.nrlc.org/archive/abortion/ASMF/asmf.html>
- <sup>21</sup> Birth Control/Abortifacients. (n.d.) Retrieved July 7, 2017, from <http://www.abortionno.org/birth-control>
- <sup>22</sup> FDA's Decision Regarding Plan B: Questions and Answers (August, 24, 2006) Retrieved August 7, 2017, from <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/postmarketdrugsafetyinformationforpatientsandproviders/ucm109795.htm>
- <sup>23</sup> Blessed Mother Teresa On Abortion (n.d.) Retrieved July 5, 2017, from <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/abortion/catholic-teaching/blessed-mother-teresa-on-abortion/>
- <sup>24</sup> Induced Abortion in the United States (January 2018) Retrieved March 11, 2019, from [https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb\\_induced\\_abortion\\_5.pdf](https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb_induced_abortion_5.pdf)
- <sup>25</sup> Abortion Statistics (2016) Retrieved July 5, 2017, from <http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS01AbortionintheUS.pdf>
- <sup>26</sup> Id.
- <sup>27</sup> Induced Abortion in the United States (January 2018) Retrieved March 11, 2019, from [https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb\\_induced\\_abortion\\_5.pdf](https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb_induced_abortion_5.pdf)
- <sup>28</sup> <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/410/113.html>
- <sup>29</sup> Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey (n.d.) Oyez. Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1991/91-744>
- <sup>30</sup> Hildebrand, Alice Von. (207) *The Privilege of Being a Woman*. Naples, Florida: Sapientia Press of Ave Maria U. Print.
- <sup>31</sup> Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). (November 23, 2018) Retrieved March 15, 2019, from [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ss/ss6713a1.htm#T3\\_down](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ss/ss6713a1.htm#T3_down)
- <sup>32</sup> Women's Health USA 2013 (April 2013) Retrieved July 5, 2017, from <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/whusa13/population-characteristics/p/us-female-population.html>
- <sup>33</sup> Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). (November 23, 2018) Retrieved March 15, 2019, from [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ss/ss6713a1.htm#T3\\_down](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ss/ss6713a1.htm#T3_down)
- <sup>34</sup> Id.
- <sup>35</sup> Id.
- <sup>36</sup> "Characteristics of U.S. Abortion Patients in 2014 and Changes Since 2008." *Guttmacher Institute*. (June 10, 2016) Retrieved July 5, 2017. <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/characteristics-us-abortion-patients-2014>
- <sup>37</sup> Id.
- <sup>38</sup> Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). (November 23, 2018) Retrieved March 15, 2019, from [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ss/ss6713a1.htm#T3\\_down](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ss/ss6713a1.htm#T3_down)
- <sup>39</sup> Earll, Carrie Gordon (n.d.) "By the numbers: U.S. abortion statistics." Retrieved March 27, 2019, from <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/pre-born/abortion-why-im-pro-life/abortion-statistics>
- <sup>40</sup> Induced Abortion in the United States (January 2018) Retrieved March 11, 2019, from [https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb\\_induced\\_abortion\\_5.pdf](https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb_induced_abortion_5.pdf)
- <sup>41</sup> Burns, L.J., Carroll, I.D., Graeser, R. E. (n.d.) "Abortion Complications." Retrieved July 5, 2017, from <http://www.abortionfacts.com/literature/abortion-complications>
- <sup>42</sup> Id.
- <sup>43</sup> Id.

- 
- <sup>44</sup> "The After Effects of Abortion." Retrieved October 8, 2018, from <https://www.abortionfacts.com/reardon/the-after-effects-of-abortion>.
- <sup>45</sup> "Abortion's PSYCHO-SOCIAL Consequences." (n.d.) *National Right to Life*. Retrieved July 5, 2017, from <http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS07References.pdf>
- <sup>46</sup> Women Cope with Delivery of Unplanned Pregnancy Better than Abortion (n.d.) *Elliot Institute*. Retrieved July 5, 2017, from <http://afterabortion.org/2011/most-studies-show-abortion-linked-to-increased-mental-health-problems/>
- <sup>47</sup> "How safe is an in-clinic abortion?" (n.d.). Retrieved March 27, 2019, from <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/in-clinic-abortion-procedures/how-safe-is-an-in-clinic-abortion>
- <sup>48</sup> Calhoun, B. C., Shadigian, E., & Rooney, B. (2007, October). Cost consequences of induced abortion as an attributable risk for preterm birth and impact on informed consent. Retrieved October 10, 2017, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17977168?dopt=Abstract>
- <sup>49</sup> Gobba, Samantha (January 27, 2017) "Pro-life Tsunami Floods State Legislatures." Retrieved June 30, 2017, from <http://www.christianheadlines.com/news/pro-life-tsunami-floods-state-legislatures.html>
- <sup>50</sup> Bazelon, Emily. (March 10, 2017) "Trump's Abortion Strategy." *The New York Times*. Retrieved June 30, 2017, from [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/10/opinion/trumps-abortion-strategy.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/10/opinion/trumps-abortion-strategy.html?_r=0)
- <sup>51</sup> Kelli (January 18, 2019) "Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals: Planned Parenthood videos aren't deceptive, Texas can defund." Retrieved March 27, 2019, from <https://www.liveaction.org/news/fifth-circuit-planned-parenthood-videos-texas/>
- <sup>52</sup> Update/Reminder: Changes in Reimbursement for Extended Women's Health Services (February 25, 2017) Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <https://mmac.mo.gov/updatereimbursement-changes-reimbursement-extended-womens-health-services/>
- <sup>53</sup> Crawford, Tom (February 6, 2007) "Abortion issue surfaces in Legislature." *Tom Crawford's Georgia Report*. Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <http://gareport.com/story/2007/02/06/abortion-issue-surfaces-in-legislature/>
- <sup>54</sup> Requirements for Ultrasound (July 5, 2017) *Guttmacher Institute*. Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/requirements-ultrasound>
- <sup>55</sup> Federal court strikes down abortion ultrasound law in Kentucky (September 28, 2017) Retrieved March 27, 2019, from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kentucky-abortion/federal-court-strikes-down-abortion-ultrasound-law-in-kentucky-idUSKCN1C30R6>
- <sup>56</sup> Peter J. Buenger and Brittany H. Southerland, Health: Consent for surgical or medical treatment, 24 Ga. St. U. L. Rev. 161, (2007).
- <sup>57</sup> Pro-Life Quotes by Famous People (n.d.) Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <http://www.webparish.com/prolife/documents/QuotesFamousPeople.htm>
- <sup>58</sup> Parenthood, Planned Federation of America. (n.d.) "About Us." Retrieved June 30, 2017, from <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us>
- <sup>59</sup> Planned Parenthood Federation of America (2017) "2015-2016 Annual Report." Retrieved July 12, 2017, from [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer\\_public/18/40/1840b04b-55d3-4c00-959d-11817023ffc8/20170526\\_annualreport\\_p02\\_singles.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/18/40/1840b04b-55d3-4c00-959d-11817023ffc8/20170526_annualreport_p02_singles.pdf)
- <sup>60</sup> Fact #18: Abortion Disproportionately Targets Minority Babies. (n.d.) Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <http://www.abortionfacts.com/facts/18>
- <sup>61</sup> Women's Health USA 2013 (April 2013) Retrieved July 5, 2017, from <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/whusa13/population-characteristics/p/us-female-population.html>
- <sup>62</sup> Fact #18: Abortion Disproportionately Targets Minority Babies. (n.d.) Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <http://www.abortionfacts.com/facts/18>
- <sup>63</sup> Leonard, Kimberly (September 29, 2015) "Planned Parenthood Head Hit for Six-Figure Salary." U.S. News & World Report. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/09/29/planned-parenthood-head-cecile-richards-hit-for-high-salary-on-capitol-hill>
- <sup>64</sup> Sandra Merritt Finally Released on Outrageous Bail. (May 5, 2015) Retrieved June 30, 2017, from <http://www.lc.org/newsroom/details/050517-sandra-merritt-finally-released-on-outrageous-bail>.
- <sup>65</sup> Roe v. Wade (n.d.) Oyez. Retrieved July 12, 2017, from, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-18>
- <sup>66</sup> Doe v. Bolton (n.d.) Oyez. Retrieved July 12, 2017, from, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-40>

- 
- <sup>67</sup> Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey (n.d.) Oyez. Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1991/91-744>
- <sup>68</sup> Gonzales v. Carhart (n.d.) Oyez. Retrieved July 12, 2017, from, <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2006/05-380>
- <sup>69</sup> Abortion is not Healthcare (December 7, 2017) ,Retrieved June 30, 2017, from, <http://www.lc.org/newsroom/details/abortion-is-not-healthcare-1>
- <sup>70</sup> Moore, K. L., Persaud, T. V., & Torchia, M. G. (2016). *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier.
- <sup>71</sup> Survival Rates of Premature Babies born at 23-24 Weeks are Improving (February 17, 2017) Retrieved July 12, 2017, from <http://www.lifenews.com/2017/02/17/survival-rates-of-premature-babies-born-at-23-24-weeks-are-improving/>.
- <sup>72</sup> University of Utah Health (n.d.) “When is it Safe to Deliver Your Baby?” Retrieved April 1, 2019 from <https://healthcare.utah.edu/womenshealth/pregnancy-birth/preterm-birth/when-is-it-safe-to-deliver.php>
- <sup>73</sup> Abortion Myth #2. (n.d.). Retrieved October 10, 2017, from [http://www.abortionmyths.ca/Brain\\_Waves\\_The\\_Unborn\\_Child.html](http://www.abortionmyths.ca/Brain_Waves_The_Unborn_Child.html)
- <sup>74</sup> Id.
- <sup>75</sup> Induced Abortion in the United States (January 2018) Retrieved March 11, 2018, from [https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb\\_induced\\_abortion\\_5.pdf](https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb_induced_abortion_5.pdf)
- <sup>76</sup> Meriam Webster Medical Dictionary. (2017) Retrieved June 30, 2017, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/medical>
- <sup>77</sup> Planned Parenthood Federation of America (n.d.) Retrieved July 11, 2017, from <http://www.ippf.org/about-us/member-associations/united-states>
- <sup>78</sup> Zygote (n.d.) *Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine*. (2008). Retrieved April 1, 2019, from <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/zygote>