



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE *DOBBS* SUPREME COURT CASE

CURRENT ABORTION LAW (*ROE* AND *CASEY*)

The U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973 ruled that abortion is protected under the U.S. Constitution, striking down many state abortion restrictions and severely limiting the extent to which states could write their own abortion laws.

- *Roe* pegged the permissibility of abortions to the three trimesters of pregnancy. Abortion restrictions were prohibited in the first trimester, and restrictions in the second and third trimesters were limited.
- The *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision of 1992 did away with *Roe*'s trimester framework and created a new rule: a state cannot impose an "undue burden" on a woman's attempt to obtain an abortion pre-viability (that is, approximately 24 weeks gestation).

BACKGROUND ON *DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION*

On March 19, 2018, former Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant signed the Gestational Age Act (H.B. 1510) into law. This bill was introduced by Mississippi Representative Becky Currie, a registered nurse. The bill received bipartisan support in both chambers of the legislature.

- The Gestational Age Act states that physicians must determine and document the gestational age of a fetus before an abortion can be performed.
- The Gestational Age Act ensures that abortion cannot be performed on an unborn human if the probable gestational age exceeds 15 weeks, except in the event of a medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality.



A standard ultrasound image at approximately 15 weeks.

Jackson Women's Health Organization is the only licensed abortion facility in Mississippi. One of its doctors, Dr. Sacheen Carr-Ellis, filed suit challenging the Gestational Age Act on the day that it was signed into law.

Plaintiffs-Appellees

- Jackson Women's Health Organization, on behalf of itself and its patients.
- Sacheen Carr-Ellis, M.D., M.P.H., on behalf of herself and her patients.

Defendants-Appellants

- Thomas E. Dobbs, M.D., M.P.H., in his official capacity as state health officer of the Mississippi Department of Health.
- Kenneth Cleveland, M.D., in his official capacity as executive director of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure.

IN *DOBBS*, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT WILL CONSIDER IF MISSISSIPPI'S PRE-VIABILITY 15-WEEK BAN IS CONSTITUTIONAL

- This is a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* and a chance for the Supreme Court to overturn those decisions.
- The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments from both parties on December 1, 2021, with a final ruling expected by July 2022.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE FOR THE *DOBBS* CASE

- Pray for sound judgment from the justices on the Supreme Court and that they might overturn the precedent of *Roe* and *Casey*.
- Educate yourself on the history of abortion legislation in our nation and how it directly infringes on the right to life and undermines the inherent human dignity of the unborn.
- Learn more about the biological proof of life beginning at conception and the evidence for the personhood of babies in the womb.
- Brush up on your state's abortion laws and seek opportunities to advocate for pro-life laws in anticipation of them going into effect if *Roe* and *Casey* are overturned.
- Volunteer with or donate to Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs) in your area that provide material and emotional support to women as an alternative to abortion. PRCs are a vital resource for women in crisis pregnancy situations and will be drawn upon heavily in the future once life is protected in the states once again.



There are over 40 Pregnancy Resource Centers throughout the state of Mississippi.

Visit <https://www.chooselifems.org/pregnancy-centers/> for more information.

