



Questions and Answers

THE OVERTURN OF *ROE V. WADE*

What does the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision do?

Answer: The decision reverses the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* abortion ruling and lets each state or Congress enact abortion laws.

Will this ruling threaten the lives of women?

Answer: No. Abortion kills an unborn child and carries serious risks and consequences for women. Letting states restrict or prohibit abortion will not threaten the lives of women. Most state abortion laws contain exceptions for serious medical emergencies—such as when the woman's life is in danger. Permitting abortion in these circumstances means that women's health will not be jeopardized.

After this ruling, where is abortion illegal?

Answer: The *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* decision allows states to make their own abortion laws. Some have already made abortion illegal. Others may do so. Abortion will be legal in many states.

Is abortion legal in Arkansas at this time?

Answer: No. Arkansas' Act 180 of 2019 prohibits abortion unless the mother's life is at risk. This law is in effect now that the U.S. Supreme Court has reversed *Roe v. Wade*.

Could a woman be prosecuted for having an abortion under Arkansas' Act 180?

Answer: No. Under Act 180, only the person performing the abortion can be prosecuted. The woman cannot be prosecuted.

Should women be prosecuted for having an abortion?

Answer: No. Many women are coerced into an abortion. Human traffickers, boyfriends, parents, and others sometimes force women to get an abortion. Prosecuting the person performing the abortion is a sufficient deterrent, so there is no need to punish anyone else.

Can abortionists in states where abortion is legal be held liable for performing an abortion on a woman who travels from Arkansas?

Answer: No. Under Interstate Commerce, people are free to travel across state lines and engage in activities that are legal in one state but illegal in the state where they reside. Arkansas would not be able to prosecute an abortionist in another state for performing an abortion that was legal there.

Does Arkansas' abortion ban affect women who have suffered a miscarriage?

Answer: No. The law does not apply to miscarriage or ectopic pregnancies. It does not affect procedures performed to remove an unborn baby who has died as the result of a miscarriage. It does not prevent a pregnant woman from receiving medical treatments—such as chemotherapy—that may carry risks for the unborn child.

The Arkansas law has no exception for rape or incest. Is this a mistake?

Answer: No. Rape and incest are evil, and perpetrators should be punished to the fullest extent of the law. The woman is a victim, and she deserves as much compassion and help as can be provided by everyone around her. Abortion does not heal the trauma that rape and incest cause. Abortion has its own risks and physical and emotional consequences for the woman. Sexual predators sometimes coerce their victims into having abortions to conceal rape or incest. The child is innocent. Abortion takes the life of an innocent baby, and making exception for rape or incest says that the circumstances of that baby's conception somehow dictate whether the baby lives or dies.

Is emergency contraception or "Plan B" legal now in Arkansas?

Answer: Yes. Act 180 of 2019 does not prohibit contraceptives, and it contains language that clearly exempts emergency contraception that is administered before the time when a pregnancy can be detected through conventional testing.

Since IUDs prevent the implantation of a fertilized egg are they legal under Arkansas law?

Answer: Yes. Act 180 of 2019 allows this and other types of contraception.

Will doctors who perform abortions to save the life of the mother be investigated and possibly charged with a crime?

Answer: No. Abortion to save the life of the mother is legal in case of a medical emergency. Act 180 of 2019 clearly defines medical emergency.

Is it legal for women in Arkansas to order abortion drugs by mail?

Answer: No. Arkansas passed a law in 2021 that makes it illegal to deliver abortion-inducing drugs by mail.

Are you Christians going to step up and help raise all these unwanted children?

Answer: Christians have been stepping up for hundreds of years. Christians and people of other faiths are the ones providing most of the funding and other assistance for pregnancy help organizations, children's homes, foster homes, homes for unwed mothers, and women's shelters, as well as hospitals and free medical clinics. In addition churches and other places of worship contribute billions of dollars each year to charities that help women and children.

Why are you forcing women to carry a pregnancy to term when they don't want to do this?

Answer: The law must balance the rights of the mother and the rights of the child living in her womb. An unborn child is not the same as a tumor or a woman's appendix. As a separate person, this unborn child has rights too. A mother's rights should never justify taking the life of her child.

Do you believe there should be a federal law passed to ban abortions nationwide?

Answer: Yes. If abortion is wrong in one state it is wrong in another. However, passing such a law may not be possible. In addition we need to respect the right of each state to set policy.

Does this ruling call into question the credibility of the U.S. Supreme Court and erode our democracy?

Answer: The only people saying that it does this are those who disagree with the ruling. *Roe v. Wade* put unelected judges in charge of America's abortion laws. This ruling fixes that. After 50 years of court-ordered abortion, the most democratic thing the court could do was to allow each state to vote and make their own abortion laws.

Does this ruling put the lives of women at risk? Will Women die because of this ruling?

Answer: The ruling does not put women's lives at risk. We can't ignore the fact that every time there is an abortion, a child dies. Abortion takes the life of a separate human being—one with brain waves, a heartbeat, and its own blood type and fingerprints. Governments exist to protect the life and safety of all persons, including the unborn.

Does this ruling put other contraceptives, same-sex marriage, or other rights at risk?

Answer: No. The court's opinion says that this decision is about abortion only.