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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 1: What is an abortion?**

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# Words to Know in Part 1



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



## Bodily autonomy

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.



## Fetus

The new human growing inside a pregnant person.



## Medication abortion

When a pregnant person takes pills to end their pregnancy.



## Self-determination

The right to make choices about your own life. Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.



## Surgical abortion

When a pregnant person has surgery to end their pregnancy.

# What is an abortion?



When a person is pregnant, they have a new human growing inside of them.



This new human is called a **fetus**.



An **abortion** is when a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



After getting an abortion, a person isn't pregnant anymore.



(We say “pregnant people” instead of “women” to include all people who can get pregnant.)



Some transgender men and non-binary people can get pregnant.



Also, not all women can get pregnant.)

# 2

There are a couple ways that abortions happen.



One is a **medication abortion**.



This is where a pregnant person takes pills to end their pregnancy.



Another is a **surgical abortion**.



This is when a pregnant person has surgery to end their pregnancy.



People have lots of arguments about abortion.



Some people say that abortion should be illegal.



Other people say that abortion should be legal.



ASAN believes that abortion should always be legal.



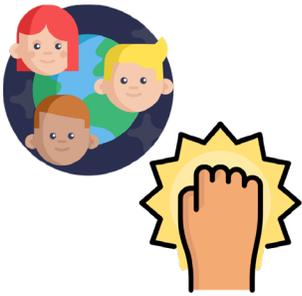
We believe people have the right to bodily autonomy and self-determination.



**Bodily autonomy** means people control what happens to their bodies.



Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.



All people have the right to bodily autonomy.



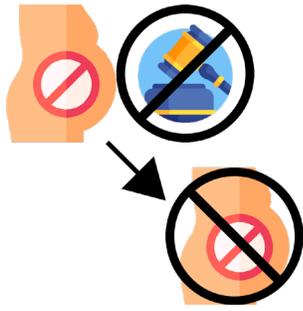
**Self-determination** is the right to make choices about your own life.



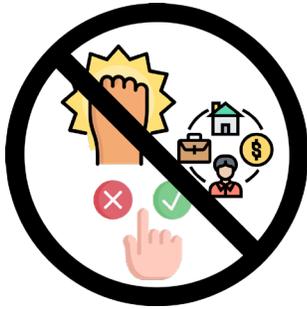
Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.



All people have the right to self-determination.



When abortion is illegal, pregnant people can't decide to get an abortion if they need one.

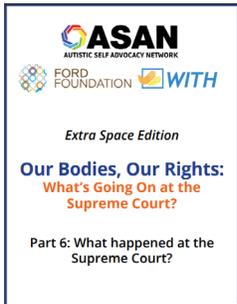


That interferes with pregnant people's bodily autonomy. It interferes with pregnant people's self-determination.

Right now, abortion is legal in some states.



Abortion is not legal in other states.



We will talk about why this is in a later section.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 2: Why does abortion  
matter to people with  
disabilities?**

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# Words to Know in Part 2



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



## Bodily autonomy

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.



## Fetus

The new human growing inside a pregnant person.



## Self-determination

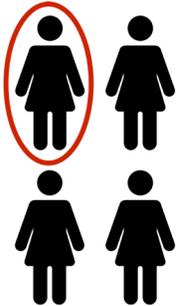
The right to make choices about your own life. Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.

# Why does abortion matter to people with disabilities?

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People have abortions for lots of reasons.



We think that about 1 in 4 women will have an abortion.



(We say “women” here because the study only looked at women who get abortions.)

## Some reasons people get abortions are:



- They do not want to be pregnant and have a child.



- They cannot afford to be pregnant and have a child.



- It is not the right time for them to be pregnant and have a child.



- They do not want to be pregnant and have a child in their current relationship.



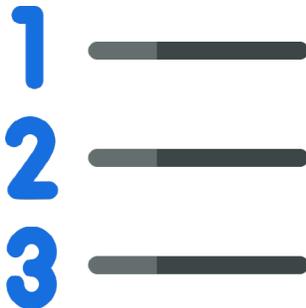
- They have children who they need to focus on. Being pregnant and having another child would take away from that.



Abortion matters to people with disabilities for a lot of reasons.



The reasons we just talked about are also important to people with disabilities.



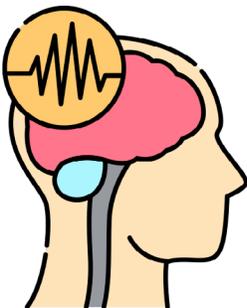
Here are more reasons why abortion matters to people with disabilities.



For some pregnant people with disabilities, pregnancy would hurt them.



Getting pregnant would make their disability worse.



For example, [epilepsy](#) can get really bad during pregnancy.



Epilepsy is a disability that causes seizures.



Epilepsy during pregnancy can kill the pregnant person or the fetus.



If a person with disabilities gets pregnant, they may not want to risk their disability getting worse.



Some people with disabilities take medication that would hurt the fetus if they got pregnant.



For example, a lot of medications that people take [for mental health disabilities](#) can hurt fetuses.



But a lot of people with disabilities who take medication can't easily go off their medication.



If they go off their medication, their disabilities could get worse.



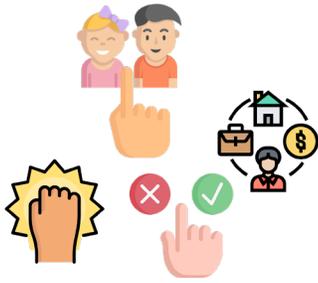
Or they might have really bad side effects from going off their medications.



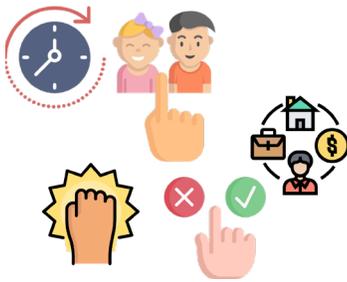
Some pregnant people who take medication choose abortion.



They feel abortion is the best choice for them.



Being able to choose if we have children is a part of bodily autonomy and self-determination.



Being able to choose when we have children is a part of bodily autonomy and self-determination.



People with disabilities should be able to choose if we have children.



People with disabilities should be able to choose when we get pregnant.



If we don't want to be pregnant, we should be able to get an abortion.



People with disabilities have a long history of other people not respecting our bodily autonomy or self-determination.



Having the right to get abortions is one way we can have bodily autonomy and self-determination.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 3: What is Roe v. Wade?**

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# Words to Know in Part 3



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



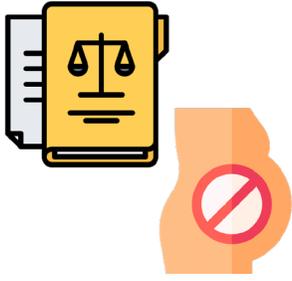
## Justice

A judge on the Supreme Court.



## Lawsuit

When you take someone to court. You tell the court what the person did or is trying to do to you. Then, you ask the court to tell the person what to do.



## Roe v. Wade

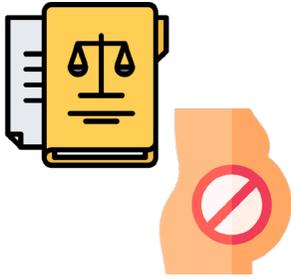
A Supreme Court case decided in 1973. We sometimes call Roe v. Wade “Roe” for short. A woman who went by the fake name Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas. But Texas law said that abortion was illegal. So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion. The Supreme Court decided that abortion had to be legal in most cases during pregnancy.



## Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States. They have the final say on laws.

# What is Roe v. Wade?



**Roe v. Wade** was a court case decided in 1973.



We sometimes call Roe v. Wade "Roe" for short.



A woman used the fake name "Jane Roe" for privacy.



Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas.

But Texas law said that abortion was illegal.



So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion.



A **lawsuit** is when you take someone to court.



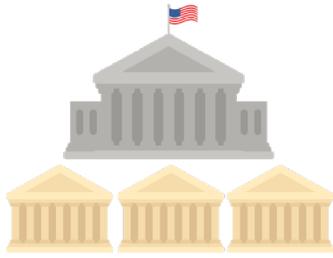
You tell the court what the person did or is trying to do to you.



Then, you ask the court to tell the person what to do.



The case made its way to the Supreme Court.



The **Supreme Court** is the highest court in the United States.



They have the final say on laws.



The Supreme Court is made up of 9 judges.



**Justice** is what we call a judge on the Supreme Court.



The President of the United States picks justices to be on the Supreme Court.



Supreme Court decisions matter to people with disabilities.



Some Supreme Court decisions said people with disabilities have certain rights.



Other Supreme Court decisions said people with disabilities do not have certain rights.



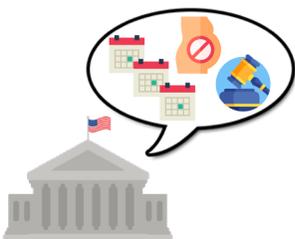
The Supreme Court made a decision in Roe v. Wade.



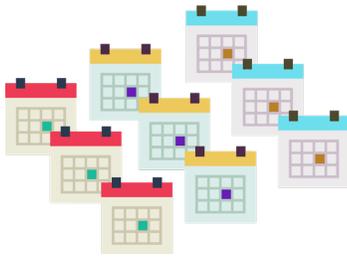
They decided that it wasn't okay for states to make abortion totally illegal.



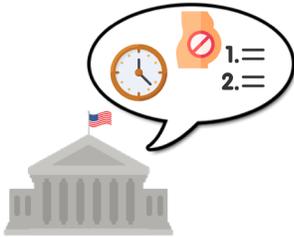
The Supreme Court said that states could make some laws about when abortion could be illegal.



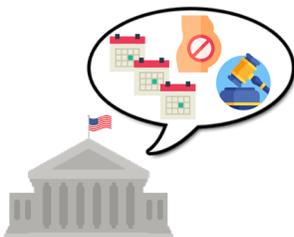
But the Supreme Court said that states had to let abortions be legal at least for the first few months of a person's pregnancy.



A pregnancy is usually about 9 months long.



The Supreme Court made rules about abortion based on how long someone had been pregnant.



The Supreme Court said that abortion had to be legal during the first 3 months of pregnancy.



The Supreme Court said that states can pass some laws about abortion in the second 3 months of pregnancy.



But the laws can only be to protect the health of the pregnant person.



The Supreme Court said that states can pass laws to make abortion illegal in most cases in the third 3 months of pregnancy.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 4: What changes have there  
been to Roe?**

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# Words to Know in Part 4



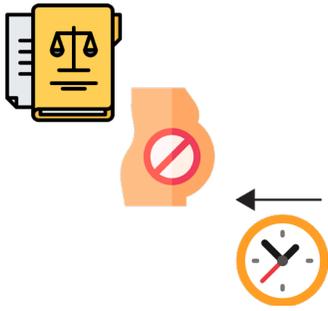
## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



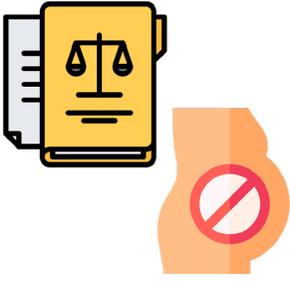
## Fetus

The new human growing inside a pregnant person.



## Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

A Supreme Court case decided in 1992. Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other health care. They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state. The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal. But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



## Roe v. Wade

A Supreme Court case decided in 1973. We sometimes call Roe v. Wade “Roe” for short. A woman who went by the fake name Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas. But Texas law said that abortion was illegal. So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion. The Supreme Court decided that abortion had to be legal in most cases during pregnancy.



## Supreme Court

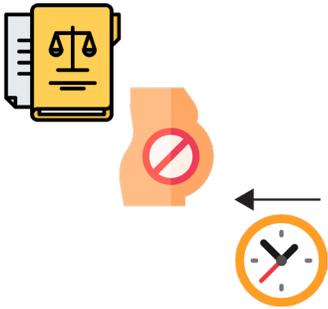
The highest court in the United States. They have the final say on laws.

# What changes have there been to Roe?

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In 1992, the Supreme Court made a decision in another case.



This case was called **Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey**.



(We sometimes call Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey “Casey” for short.)



Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other kinds of health care.



They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania.



Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state.



The lawsuit made its way to the Supreme Court.



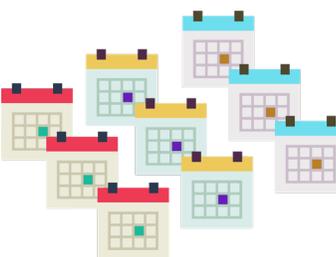
The Supreme Court made a decision in the case.



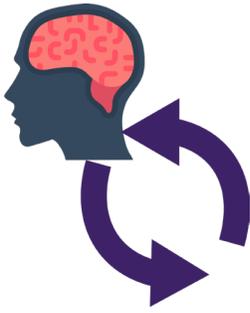
The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal.



But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



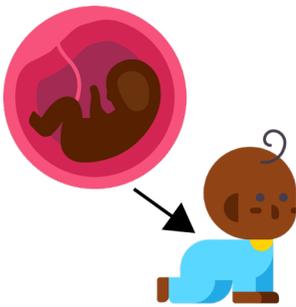
Before, the Supreme Court said laws about abortion needed to be based on how many months someone was pregnant.



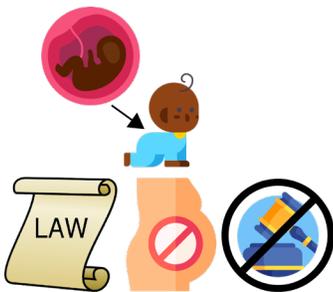
Now, the Supreme Court changed its mind.



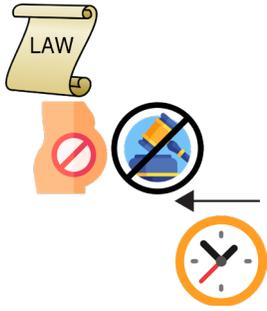
Now, the Supreme Court said the new system would be about fetal viability.



Fetal viability is whether the fetus can survive outside of the pregnant person's body.



States could only pass laws making abortion illegal once the fetus could survive outside the pregnant person's body.

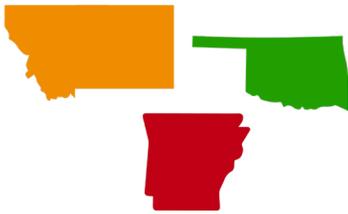


This meant that states could pass laws making abortion illegal earlier in people's pregnancies than before.

## Where are we now?



Abortion is legal in some states.



It is illegal in other states.



States have been passing laws to make abortion illegal in their state.



States have been trying to do this since the Supreme Court decided Roe in 1973.



But some states have especially been trying to make abortion illegal in their state in the past few years.

For example:



In 2018, the state of Mississippi made a law saying pregnant people couldn't get abortions if the fetus was more than 15 weeks old.



A fetus is not viable at 15 weeks old.



A fetus cannot survive outside the pregnant person's body at 15 weeks old.



So, Mississippi's law goes against what the Supreme Court said in Casey.



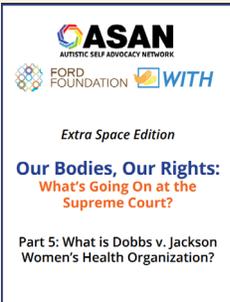
But Mississippi still made the law.



Mississippi still wanted abortion to be against the law after 15 weeks of pregnancy.



Mississippi's law is part of another Supreme Court case.



We will talk about that case in the next section.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 5: What is Dobbs v. Jackson  
Women's Health Organization?**

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# Words to Know in Part 5



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



## Amicus brief

A way for people who aren't part of a lawsuit to tell a court what decision it should make.



## **Bodily autonomy**

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.



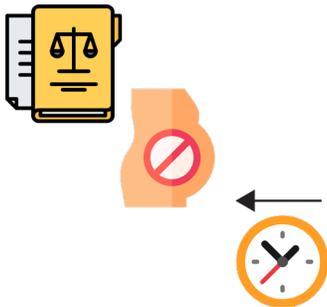
## Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

Another Supreme Court case. The Supreme Court will make a decision in it this year, in 2022. We sometimes call Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization "Dobbs" for short. In 2018, the state of Mississippi made a law saying pregnant people couldn't get abortions if the fetus was more than 15 weeks old. This goes against what the Supreme Court said in Roe and in Casey. Now, Mississippi is asking the Supreme Court to change its mind. Mississippi wants the Supreme Court to undo its decisions in Roe and Casey.



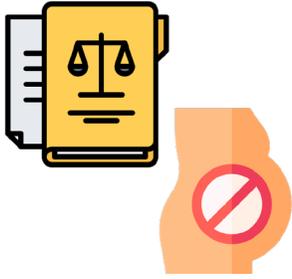
## Fetus

The new human growing inside a pregnant person.



## Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

A Supreme Court case decided in 1992. Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other health care. They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state. The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal. But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



## Roe v. Wade

A Supreme Court case decided in 1973. We sometimes call Roe v. Wade “Roe” for short. A woman who went by the fake name Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas. But Texas law said that abortion was illegal. So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion. The Supreme Court decided that abortion had to be legal in most cases during pregnancy.



## Sexually assaulted

Being forced to have sex with someone.



## Sterilized

Having surgery so you cannot get pregnant anymore.



## Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States.  
They have the final say on laws.

# What is Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization?

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Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization is another Supreme Court case.



It was decided by the Supreme Court in 2022.



We sometimes call Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization "Dobbs" for short.



In 2018, the state of Mississippi made a law saying pregnant people couldn't get abortions if the fetus was more than 15 weeks old.



This went against what the Supreme Court said in Roe and in Casey.



Mississippi asked the Supreme Court to change its mind.



Mississippi wanted the Supreme Court to undo its decisions in Roe and Casey.



ASAN and another disability rights group, DREDF, filed an amicus brief in the Dobbs case.



An amicus brief is a way for people to tell a court what decision it should make.



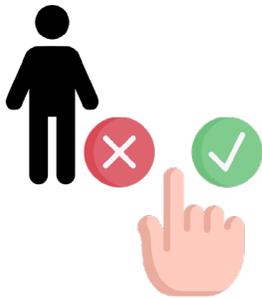
People write amicus briefs for lawsuits they care about.



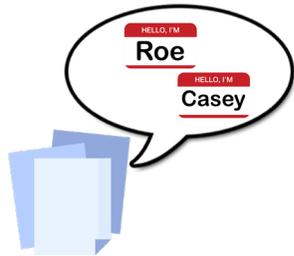
People who write an amicus brief aren't part of the lawsuit.



The brief explains how important it is for people with disabilities to make choices.



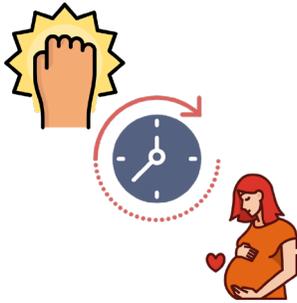
This includes choices about our bodies.



The brief says that the Supreme Court should decide to keep its decisions in Roe and Casey.

The brief talks about these things:

## The 15-week abortion ban would deny the bodily autonomy of pregnant people.



People have bodily autonomy all the time, including when they are pregnant.



Bodily autonomy means people control their bodies.



Nobody else should decide what a person does with their body.



If the Supreme Court agrees with the ban, they will hurt bodily autonomy. They will say pregnant people don't have bodily autonomy if their pregnancy is more than 15 weeks along.



That is not right.

## The 15-week abortion ban would be especially bad for people with disabilities.



Some disabilities get worse while a person is pregnant.



Some disabilities can get so bad that if the person doesn't have an abortion, they could die.



But not all people find out they are pregnant before their pregnancy is 15 weeks along.

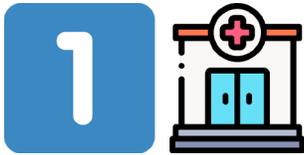


Some disabilities that get bad with pregnancy only get really bad at the end of pregnancy.

## A ban would mean people have to travel farther to get an abortion.



A lot of places have really limited access to abortions.



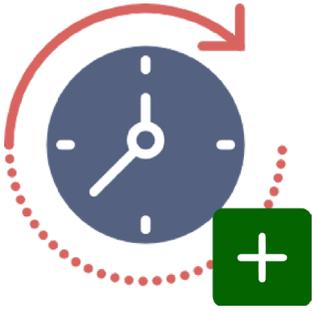
Some states only have one clinic left that performs abortions.



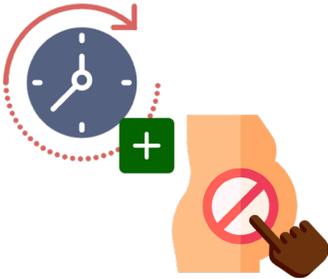
But accessing abortion can be even harder for people with disabilities.



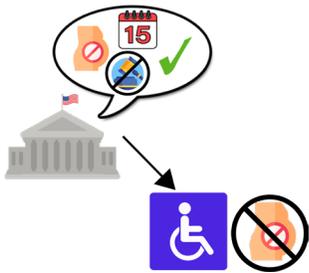
We might not be able to travel easily to a clinic to get an abortion.



Or, we might need a lot of time to consider all our choices.



We might need a lot of time to make the decision to have an abortion.



If the Supreme Court agrees with the 15-week ban, that would take away many people with disabilities' access to abortion.

## Some people are on medications that would make it really bad if they got pregnant.



Some of these medications can be harmful to a fetus.



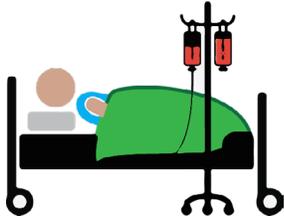
Other medications cause really bad side effects during pregnancy.



Not everyone can safely stop taking their medications during pregnancy.



Some people will die without their medications.



Some people will get really sick without their medications.

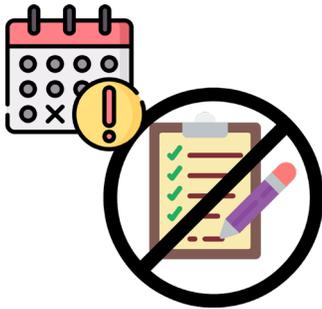


If the Supreme Court agrees with the 15-week ban, that would mean people taking these medications might not be able to get abortions.

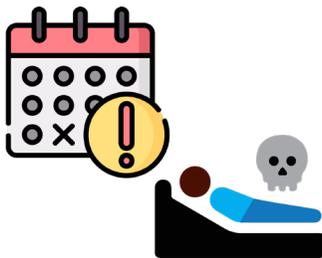
## The exceptions the ban has aren't good enough.



The Mississippi 15-week ban has some exceptions for abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.



But those exceptions don't cover many reasons people with disabilities might need abortions.



There is an exception if the pregnant person's life is in danger.



And there is an exception if continuing the pregnancy will hurt someone physically in a bad way that can't be undone.



But the ban doesn't say anything about hurting someone mentally or emotionally.



Some disabilities can get really bad during pregnancy.



But they don't put the pregnant person in danger of dying.



And they don't put the pregnant person in danger of getting physically hurt in a way that can't be undone.

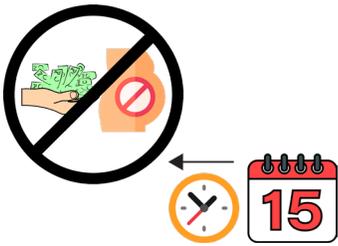


So the exceptions to the ban are not good enough.

## People with disabilities are more likely to be poor than people without disabilities.



It could take a person with disabilities a long time to save up for an abortion.



They might not be able to afford an abortion before the 15th week of pregnancy



Then, they might not be able to get an abortion at all.

# A ban on abortion might lead to more people with disabilities getting sterilized when we don't want to.



Getting **sterilized** means having a surgery so we can't get pregnant anymore.



If we are under guardianship, our guardians might worry about us getting pregnant.



They might worry if we got pregnant, we couldn't get an abortion.



Then, our guardians might decide to sterilize us.



Sometimes, guardians make this decision because people with disabilities are more likely to be sexually assaulted.



**Sexually assaulted** means being forced to have sex with someone.



There is no exception in the ban if we get pregnant from being sexually assaulted.

## Being able to get an abortion is part of bodily autonomy.



If the Supreme Court agrees with the abortion ban, it would hurt bodily autonomy.



That might lead to people not being able to have bodily autonomy in other ways.



It might lead to people with disabilities being *forced* to have abortions.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 6: What happened at the**  
**Supreme Court?**

*This toolkit was made possible in part by the generous support of the Ford Foundation and the WITH Foundation. No WITH or Ford Foundation funds were used to produce the components of this toolkit which may constitute lobbying.*

# Words to Know in Part 6



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.

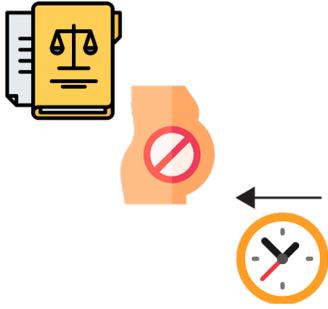


## Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

Another Supreme Court case. The Supreme Court will make a decision in it this year, in 2022. We sometimes call Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization "Dobbs" for short.

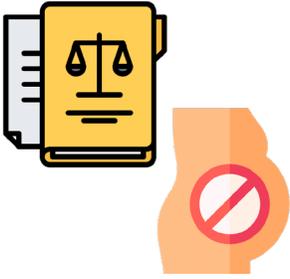
In 2018, the state of Mississippi made a law saying pregnant people couldn't get abortions if the fetus was more than 15 weeks old. This goes against what the Supreme Court said in Roe and in Casey.

Now, Mississippi is asking the Supreme Court to change its mind. Mississippi wants the Supreme Court to undo its decisions in Roe and Casey.



## Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

A Supreme Court case decided in 1992. Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other health care. They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state. The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal. But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



## Roe v. Wade

A Supreme Court case decided in 1973. We sometimes call Roe v. Wade “Roe” for short. A woman who went by the fake name Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas. But Texas law said that abortion was illegal. So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion. The Supreme Court decided that abortion had to be legal in most cases during pregnancy.



## Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States. They have the final say on laws.

# What happened at the Supreme Court?

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The Supreme Court made a decision in Dobbs.



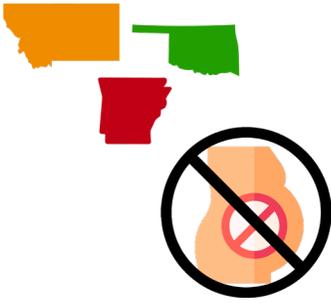
The decision said the Supreme Court would undo their decisions in Roe and Casey.



That means that Mississippi's 15-week ban would be legal.



It means states can make abortion illegal all together again.



It means that in some states, pregnant people can't get abortions at all anymore.



This is a very bad decision.



It means abortion is no longer a right in the United States.



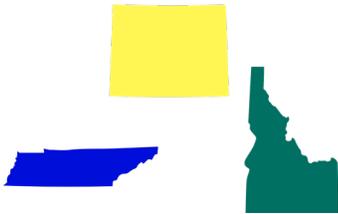
This decision is already affecting people.



Many states have laws against abortion now.



People who need abortions now can't get care in many states.



Some states have not banned abortion yet but likely will soon.



This will force people to need to travel to get abortions.



Many people will not be able to do this.



Those people will not be able to get abortions, even if they need abortions.

This decision is not right.



It is not fair.



Everyone who needs an abortion should be able to get one.



People shouldn't have to travel between states to get abortions.





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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 7: Why are some people  
so angry?**

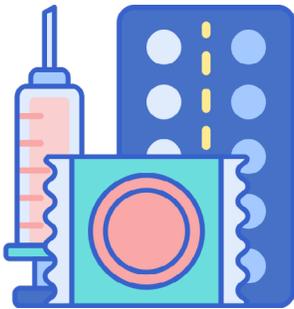
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# Words to Know in Part 7



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



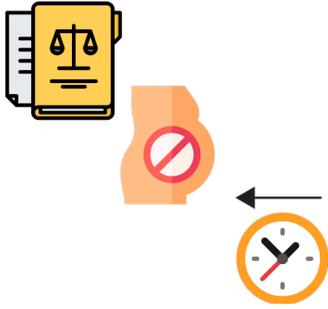
## Birth control

Medication that makes it so you can't get pregnant as long as you keep taking it.



## Bodily autonomy

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.



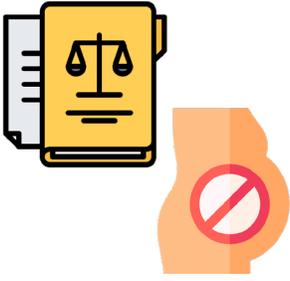
## Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

A Supreme Court case decided in 1992. Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other health care. They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state. The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal. But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



## Right to privacy

A right that says the government should not interfere with people's privacy. When we say "the right to privacy," we are not talking just about people doing things in private. We are talking about the government not getting to decide what people do in their personal lives.



## Roe v. Wade

A Supreme Court case decided in 1973. We sometimes call Roe v. Wade “Roe” for short. A woman who went by the fake name Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas. But Texas law said that abortion was illegal. So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion. The Supreme Court decided that abortion had to be legal in most cases during pregnancy.



## Self-determination

The right to make choices about your own life. Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.



## Sterilized

Having surgery so you cannot get pregnant anymore.



## Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States.  
They have the final say on laws.



## Why are some people so angry?

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People are angry because the Supreme Court undid the decision in Roe v. Wade.



Abortion doesn't have to be legal anymore.



Different states can say that abortion is illegal in those states.



People can't get abortions anymore in states where it is now illegal.

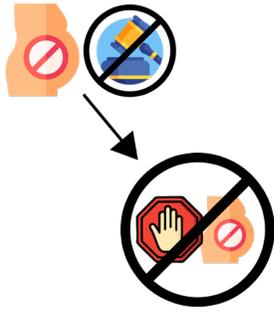
This is very bad.



People have bodily autonomy.



A pregnant person should be able to get an abortion if they want one.



Banning abortions does not stop abortions from happening.



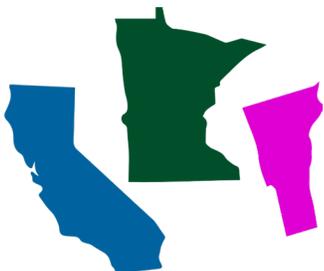
It only means people who want abortions might have to do illegal things.



And it would mean that pregnant people might have to travel long distances to get abortions.



Some states are making abortion illegal.



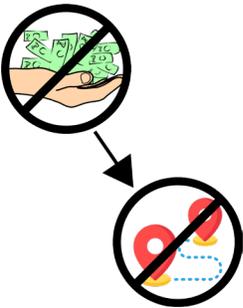
Other states are not.



So people will have to travel between states to get an abortion.



Traveling between states to get an abortion costs a lot of money.



This would mean people who don't have a lot of money couldn't travel to get abortions.



People also worry about the right to privacy.



The **right to privacy** is a right that says the government should not interfere with people's privacy.



When we say "the right to privacy," we are not just talking about people doing things in private.



We are talking more about the government not getting to decide what people do in their personal lives.



Without the right to privacy, people wouldn't have a lot of other rights.

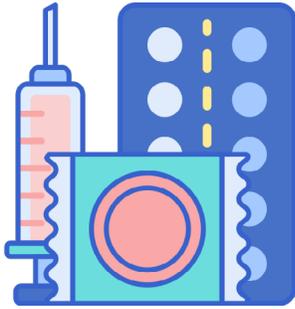


The Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs threatened the right to privacy.



One of the justices on the Supreme Court wrote in the Dobbs decision that he wanted to undo the right to privacy and a lot of other rights.

Some of these rights are:



- The right to get birth control. **Birth control** is medication that makes it so you can't get pregnant as long as you keep taking it.



- The right for two adults of the same gender to get married.



- The right of two adults of the same gender to have sex with each other.



- The right for two adults of different races to get married.



- The right of people not to be sterilized if they don't want to be.



(We don't know that the Supreme Court would get rid of these rights.)



But we are pretty sure they would if they got the chance.)



All these rights are based on the right to privacy.

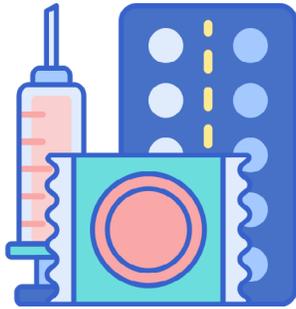


All these rights have to do with bodily autonomy and self-determination.



Bodily autonomy and self-determination say that people have the right to make choices about their own bodies and lives.

Many rights have to do with bodily autonomy and self-determination, such as:



- The right to get birth control. Birth control is medication that makes it so you can't get pregnant as long as you keep taking it.



- The right for two adults of the same gender to get married.



- The right of two adults of the same gender to have sex with each other.

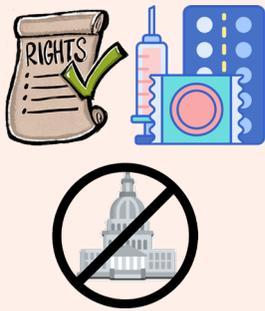


- The right for two adults of different races to get married.

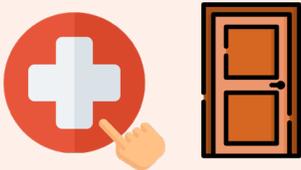


- The right of people not to be sterilized if you don't want to be.

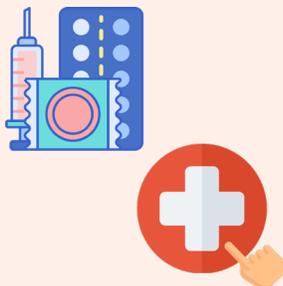
For example:



People have the right to get birth control without the government knowing about it.



This is because people have the right to keep their medical decisions private from the government.



Getting birth control is a medical decision.



Right now, the government can't say only certain people can get birth control.



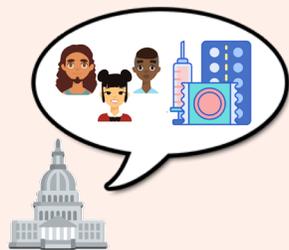
This is because of the right to privacy.



The government has to let anyone who wants birth control get it.



But the Supreme Court could undo the right to privacy.



Then the government could say who is or isn't allowed to get birth control.



*Extra Space Edition*

**Our Bodies, Our Rights:**  
**What's Going On at the**  
**Supreme Court?**

**Part 8: What can we do?**

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# Words to Know in Part 8



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



## Abortion funds

Groups that give money to people who need abortions.



## Bodily autonomy

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.



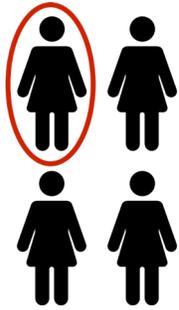
## Self-determination

The right to make choices about your own life. Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.

# What can we do?

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## Talk about abortion and bodily autonomy with others.



We talked about how abortion is really common.



Lots of different people have abortions.



It's important to talk about how abortion is normal.



It's important to talk about how everyone has the right to bodily autonomy.



It's important to talk about how everyone has the right to self-determination.



That way, more people can learn about these ideas.



Not everyone will agree with you.



People have many different opinions about abortion.



But some people will agree with you.



They can help you advocate for abortion to stay legal.

## Look out for different ways you can advocate.

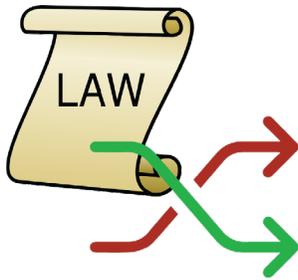


Different groups have different ways you can help them with their advocacy.



For example, ASAN might send out an Action Alert asking you to contact your elected officials.

## Advocate for laws in your state that make it easier to get an abortion.



Right now, each state has different laws.



Some states make it very easy to get an abortion.



Some states make it very hard to get an abortion.



Advocate for laws in your state that make it easier to get an abortion.



You can learn more about your state's laws here: <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/overview-abortion-laws>.



You can learn more about bills your state has introduced that have to do with abortion here: <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy>.

## Give money to abortion funds, if you can.



**Abortion funds** are groups that give money to people who need abortions.



Abortion funds get money through donations.

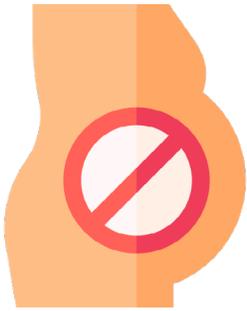


That means abortion funds need other people to give money to them.



Abortion funds are very important.

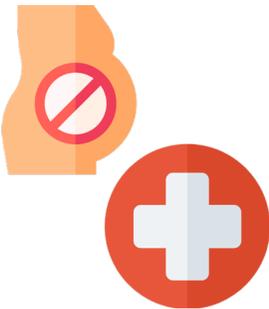
They help people pay for things like:



- Getting an abortion



- Traveling to get an abortion



- Getting health care after an abortion



You can find a national list of abortion funds here: <https://abortionfunds.org/funds/>.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 9: Why does  
bodily autonomy matter to  
people with disabilities?**

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# Words to Know in Part 9



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



## Bodily autonomy

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.

HELLO, I'M

## Buck v. Bell

## Buck v. Bell

A Supreme Court case decided in 1927. Carrie Buck was a woman with an intellectual disability who lived in an institution. The state of Virginia wanted to forcibly sterilize her because she had an intellectual disability. The state of Virginia had a law saying people living in institutions could be forcibly sterilized.

Carrie Buck brought a lawsuit against the people who ran the institution. In Carrie Buck's case, she was asking the court to tell the people who ran the institution not to forcibly sterilize her.

The Supreme Court decided it was okay for the state of Virginia to sterilize Carrie Buck. The Supreme Court said it was alright because Carrie Buck had an intellectual disability.

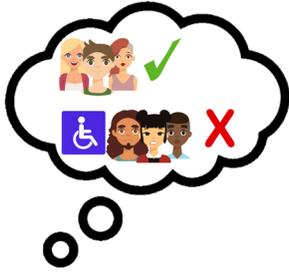


## Doe ex. rel. Tarlow v. D.C.

a court case that has to do with bodily autonomy for people with disabilities. Three women with intellectual disabilities brought a lawsuit against the Washington, D.C. Developmental Disabilities Administration. The women said that the Developmental Disabilities Administration forced them to have surgery against their will.

Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. D.C. did not go to the Supreme Court. But one of the lower court judges who decided it is now a Supreme Court justice. That justice's name is Brett Kavanaugh. In Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. D.C.,

Brett Kavanaugh said that the Developmental Disabilities Administration didn't have to ask the women what they thought about the surgeries. Brett Kavanaugh said that what the women thought about the surgeries didn't matter.



## Eugenics

The idea that some people have “good traits” and some people have “bad traits.” People who support eugenics think that people they believe have “good traits” should have lots of children. They want to get rid of groups of people that they think have “bad traits.” They want to make sure those people don’t have children.

People who believe in eugenics think that people with disabilities are worth less. People who believe in eugenics also think that people of color are worth less.



## Forced sterilization

When the government forces someone to get a surgery that makes it so that person can't have children.



## Sterilized

Having surgery so you cannot get pregnant anymore.



## Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States. They have the final say on laws.

# Why does bodily autonomy matter to people with disabilities?

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Bodily autonomy is very important to people with disabilities.



We have the right to make our own choices about our bodies.



We should be the only ones to decide what happens to our bodies.

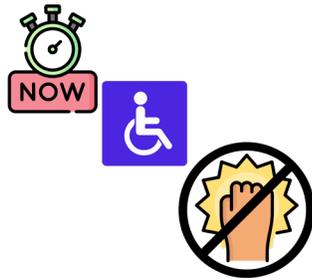


Nobody else should get to decide for us.

# What is forced sterilization?



In the past, bodily autonomy was taken away from people with disabilities a lot.



This still happens sometimes today.



In the past, many people with disabilities were forcibly sterilized.



**Forced sterilization** is when the government forces someone to get sterilized.



Forced sterilization has been used a lot against people with disabilities.

It has also been used a lot against:



- people of color.



- immigrants.



- poor people.



The Supreme Court has made a few decisions about bodily autonomy and forced sterilization.

HELLO, I'M

## Buck v. Bell

In 1927, the Supreme Court made a decision in a case called **Buck v. Bell**.



Carrie Buck was a woman with an intellectual disability who lived in an institution in the state of Virginia.



The state of Virginia wanted to forcibly sterilize her because she had an intellectual disability.



The state of Virginia had a law saying people living in institutions could be forcibly sterilized.



Carrie Buck brought a lawsuit against the people who ran the institution.



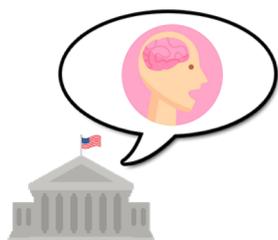
She asked the court to tell the people who ran the institution not to forcibly sterilize her.



The lawsuit made its way to the Supreme Court.



The Supreme Court decided it was okay to forcibly sterilize Carrie Buck.



The Supreme Court said it was alright because Carrie Buck had an intellectual disability.



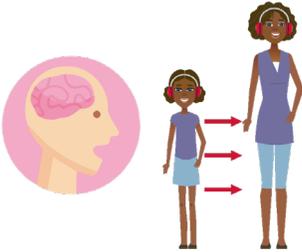
The state of Virginia forcibly sterilized Carrie Buck.



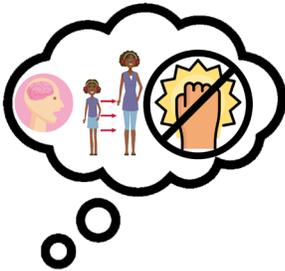
The state of Virginia had a law saying people in institutions could be forcibly sterilized until 1974.



Other states also forcibly sterilized people.



Many states sterilized people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



They didn't think that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities should have the right to bodily autonomy.



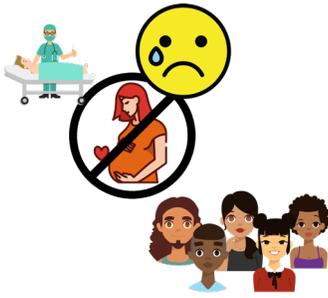
They didn't think that people with disabilities should have the right to decide to have children.



They didn't want people with disabilities to have children.



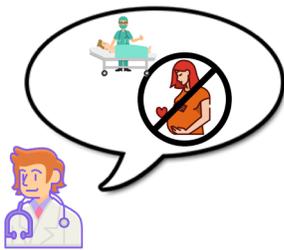
They especially did not want people with disabilities to have children with disabilities.



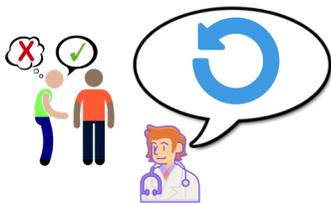
Many states also forcibly sterilized people of color.



In California, many Mexican immigrant women were forcibly sterilized.



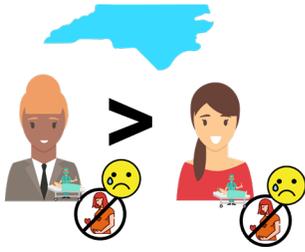
Doctors would pressure women to agree to sterilization while giving birth.



The doctors would lie and say that it could be reversed.



The women did not speak English well and did not know what the doctors were saying.



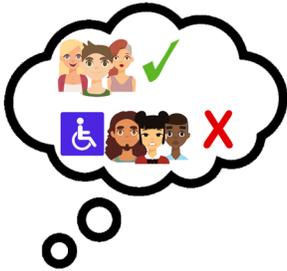
In North Carolina, Black women were forcibly sterilized more often than white women.

3x

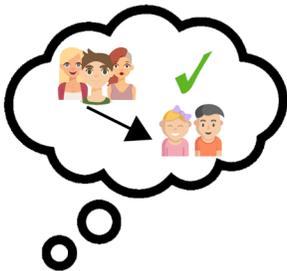
Black women were forcibly sterilized 3 times more than white women.



All these things were part of **eugenics**.



Eugenics is the idea that some people have “good traits” and some people have “bad traits.”



People who support eugenics think that people they believe have “good traits” should have lots of children.



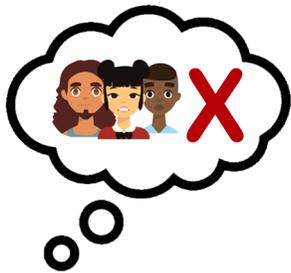
They want to get rid of groups of people that they think have “bad traits.”



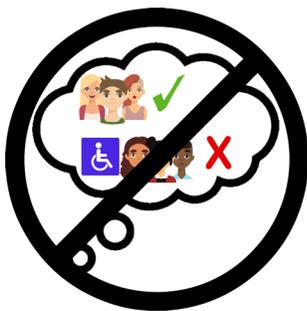
They want to do this by making sure those groups don't have children.



People who believe in eugenics think that people with disabilities are worth less.



People who believe in eugenics also think that people of color are worth less.



Eugenics is always wrong.



[ASAN is against eugenics.](#)



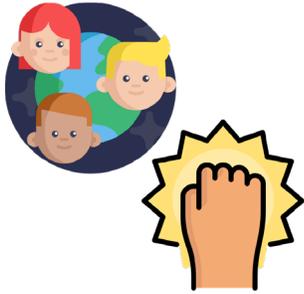
The Supreme Court has never undone their decision in Buck v. Bell.



It is still legal for states to pass laws saying that certain people can be forcibly sterilized.



However, most states no longer have laws saying that some people *must* be forcibly sterilized.



All people, including people with intellectual disabilities, have bodily autonomy.



Our thoughts and choices about our bodies matter.



The government should not force people to be sterilized.



The government should not force people to get medical care.



And the government should not stop people from getting medical care, like abortion.

## Are people still forcibly sterilized today?



Most states no longer have laws saying certain people should be forcibly sterilized.



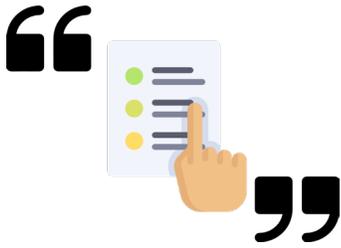
But forced sterilizations still happen.



In the last few years, a lot of forced sterilizations have happened [in prisons and jails](#).



The people being sterilized were told they would have to spend less time in jail or prison if they got sterilized.



The people technically had a “choice” whether or not to get sterilized.



But it wasn't a real choice.



If they didn't get sterilized, they would go to jail or prison for longer.



That makes it not a real choice.



In 2020, a worker at a jail in Georgia talked about what was happening in the jail.



The worker said that the people who ran the jail were forcibly sterilizing immigrant women in the jail.



The women who had been forcibly sterilized didn't know why they were forcibly sterilized.



People with disabilities under guardianship can still be forcibly sterilized in many states.



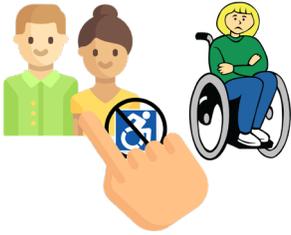
If a person's guardian says yes to the sterilization, the doctor can perform the sterilization



The doctor might not even ask the person themselves if they want to be sterilized.



31 states and Washington, D.C. have laws that [allow people with disabilities to be forcibly sterilized.](#)



These laws let other people make the decision about whether to sterilize a person with disabilities.



The other person might be the person's guardian.



Or they might be a judge.



Only 2 states, Alaska and North Carolina, ban forced sterilization of people with disabilities.

## What is Doe ex. rel. Tarlow v. D.C.?



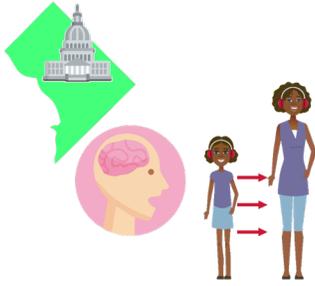
There are other ways that the government can violate people with disabilities' bodily autonomy.



One way is through forcing people with disabilities to have surgeries other than forced sterilization.



For example, [in the case Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. D.C.](#), three women with intellectual disabilities brought a lawsuit against the Washington, D.C. Developmental Disabilities Administration.



The Developmental Disabilities Administration is the part of the Washington, D.C. government that works with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The women said that the Developmental Disabilities Administration forced them to have surgery that they didn't want.



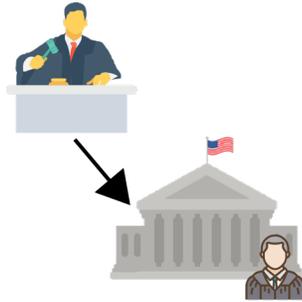
One woman said she was forced to have eye surgery.



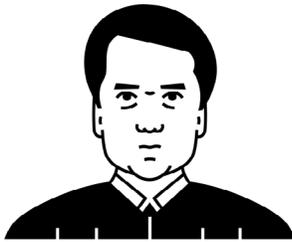
The other two women said they were forced to have abortions.



Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. D.C. did not go to the Supreme Court.



But one of the lower court judges who decided it is now a Supreme Court Justice.



That Justice's name is Brett Kavanaugh.



In Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. D.C., Brett Kavanaugh said that the Developmental Disabilities Administration didn't have to ask the women what they thought about the surgeries.



Brett Kavanaugh said that what the women thought about the surgeries didn't matter.

That is wrong!



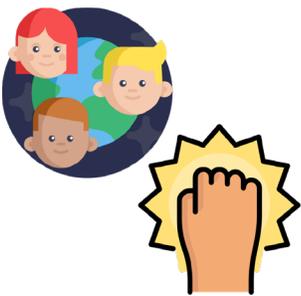
What the women thought about the surgeries did matter.



It should have been the women's choice whether they got the surgeries, not the Developmental Disabilities Administration's decision.



Everyone has bodily autonomy.



The women in *Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. D.C.* had bodily autonomy.





It is wrong to force someone to get any surgery that they do not want to.



It is wrong to say what someone wants doesn't matter because they have a disability.



Forcing people with disabilities to have abortions is also part of eugenics.



It is part of eugenics because it is saying people with disabilities shouldn't have children.



People with disabilities also have the right to have children if we want to.



Other people shouldn't be able to make us have abortions.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 10: What is self-  
determination?**

*This toolkit was made possible in part by the generous support of the Ford Foundation and the WITH Foundation. No WITH or Ford Foundation funds were used to produce the components of this toolkit which may constitute lobbying.*

# Words to Know in Part 10



## Self-determination

The right to make choices about your own life. Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.



## Supported decision-making

A way to make decisions. A person with a disability chooses someone to help them understand or communicate a decision. The person they choose is their supporter. The person with a disability makes their own decision and can get help from the supporter.



## Supporter

A person that a person with disabilities chooses to help them make or communicate a decision.

# What is self-determination?

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Self-determination is the right to make choices about your own life.

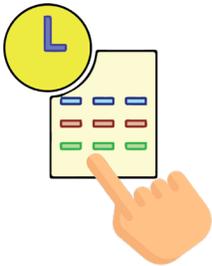


People use self-determination all the time.

Some ways people use self-determination are:



- Choosing where they will live and who they will live with



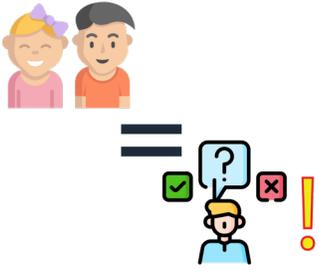
- Choosing what they want to do during the day



- Choosing where they want to work



- Choosing if, and when, they want to have children



Having children is a big decision.



People should be able to choose if, and when, they have children.



People with disabilities should be able to choose if, and when, we have children.



Other people shouldn't stop us from having children.



And other people shouldn't force us to have children if we don't want to.



Some people with disabilities need help making choices.



Instead of having a guardian, these people can use **supported decision-making**.



Supported decision-making is a way to make choices.



A person with a disability chooses someone to help them.



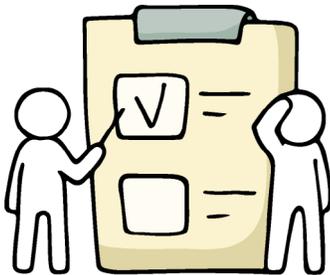
The person they choose is their **supporter**.



The supporter can help the person with a disability make a choice.



And, the supporter can help a person with a disability talk about their choice.



The person with a disability makes their own choice.



And they can get help from the supporter.



Supported decision-making can help people with disabilities make big choices.



For example, the choice if, and when, to have children.



It is important to remember that all people have the right to self-determination.



People with disabilities have the right to self-determination.



Someone's right to self-determination doesn't go away because they have a disability.



It doesn't go away because they need help making a decision.



It doesn't go away even if someone is under guardianship.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 11: What is reproductive  
justice?**

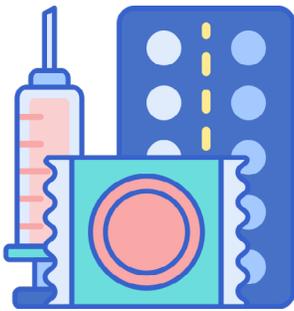
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# Words to Know in Part 7



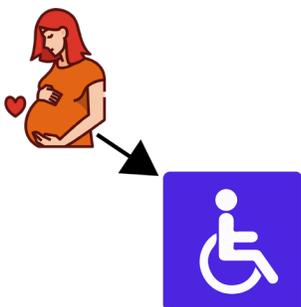
## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



## Birth control

Medication that makes it so you can't get pregnant as long as you keep taking it.



## Complications

Medical conditions that happen because someone is pregnant.



## Forced sterilization

When the government forces someone to get a surgery that makes it so that person can't have children.



## Reproductive

When something is about having children.



## Reproductive justice

A human right that says all people have the right to:

- Have bodily autonomy and self-determination
- Have children, if they want to
- Not have children, if they want to
- Parent their children in a safe and healthy world



## Sterilized

Having surgery so you cannot get pregnant anymore.

# What is reproductive justice?

---



Reproductive justice is a human right.



("Reproductive" means "about having children.")

Reproductive justice says that all people have the right to:



- Have bodily autonomy and self-determination.



- Have children, if they want to.



- Not have children, if they want to.



- Parent their children in a safe and healthy world.



Women of color, especially Black women, came up with the phrase “reproductive justice.”



The reproductive justice movement focuses on more than just whether abortion is legal.



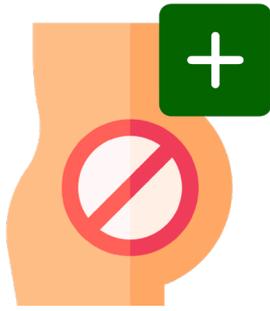
The reproductive justice movement focuses on whether abortion is *accessible* to all people.



Reproductive justice focuses on whether people can access abortion in their area.

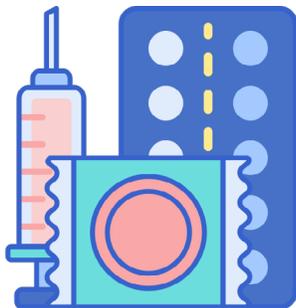


Reproductive justice focuses on whether people can afford to pay for an abortion.



Reproductive justice also focuses on more than just abortion.

Reproductive justice also talks about access to things like:



- Birth control.



- Learning about safe, healthy sex and relationships.



- Health care during pregnancy.



- Safe homes and living spaces.



- Getting paid enough to support a family.

Reproductive justice is really important.



It is important that people have access to all different kinds of choices around:



- pregnancy.



- abortion.



- parenting.



It is important that people have all the information they need to live the life they want.



It is important that people have all the support they need to live the life they want.



It is important that people have all the information they need to choose whether they have children.



It is important that people have all the support they need to choose whether they have children.

For example:



People of color are more likely than white people [to be poor](#).



People of color are less likely than white people [to have safe housing](#).



When people don't have a lot of money, they may feel like they can't have children.



When people don't have safe housing, they may feel like they can't have children.



Making sure people have enough money is part of reproductive justice.



Making sure people have safe housing is part of reproductive justice.



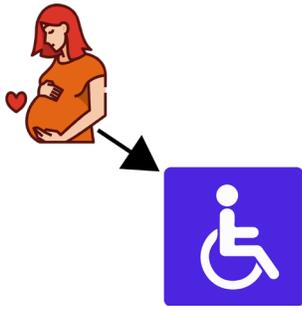
Reproductive justice is also about health and safety during pregnancy and giving birth.



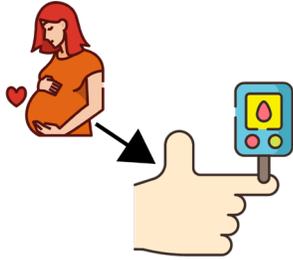
All people deserve to be safe and healthy during pregnancy.

700 

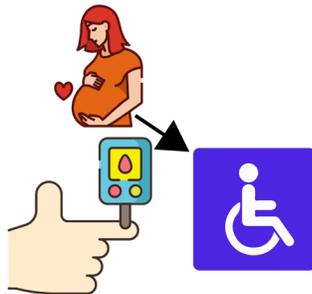
But in the United States, about 700 people die each year because of pregnancy or its complications.



(**Complications** are medical conditions that happen because someone is pregnant.



For example, some people get diabetes while pregnant.



Their diabetes is a complication of pregnancy.)



Black people are much more likely than white people to die because of pregnancy or its complications.

# 3x

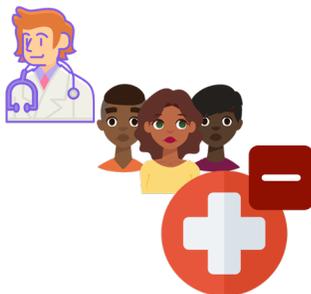
One study found that Black pregnant people are 3 times as likely as white pregnant people to die.



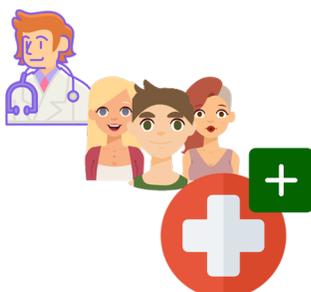
We don't know exactly why this is.



But we think it is because of racism in the health care system.



We think it is because doctors take less good care of Black pregnant people.



They take better care of white pregnant people.



Reproductive justice is important to people with disabilities.



Like we talked about, people with disabilities are more likely to be forcibly sterilized.



Also, the government might say we can't be good parents because we have disabilities.



The government might take our children away from us because we have disabilities.

This is wrong!



People with disabilities can be good parents.



We deserve to parent our children, just like other parents do.



We don't just want a world where abortion is legal.



We want a world where choices about pregnancy are accessible to everyone.



We want a world where people who want abortions can get them easily.



We want a world where people who want children can parent their children in safe, healthy environments.



We want a world where people don't fear the government will take their children away.



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 12: To Learn More and**  
**Where We Got Our Information**

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# To Learn More and Where We Got Our Information

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Sources with an asterisk (\*) are linked in the text.

Note: Sources are not Easy Read/plain language unless we say they are.

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Scarleteen “All about abortion”: [https://www.scarleteen.com/article/bodies/all\\_about\\_abortion](https://www.scarleteen.com/article/bodies/all_about_abortion)

NPR “7 persistent claims about abortion, fact-checked”: <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/06/1096676197/7-persistent-claims-about-abortion-fact-checked>

# About Why Abortion Matters to People with Disabilities

\* Guttmacher Institute “Abortion Is a Common Experience for U.S. Women, Despite Dramatic Declines in Rates”:  
<https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2017/abortion-common-experience-us-women-despite-dramatic-declines-rates>

\* BMC Women’s Health “Understanding why women seek abortions in the US”:  
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\* Therapeutic Advances in Neurological Disorders “Management of epilepsy during pregnancy: an update”: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4784252/>

\* Brain Sciences “Use of Prescribed Psychotropics during Pregnancy: A Systematic Review of Pregnancy, Neonatal, and Childhood Outcomes”: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6770670/>

\* NPR “The Sexual Assault Epidemic No One Talks About”: <https://www.npr.org/2018/01/08/570224090/the-sexual-assault-epidemic-no-one-talks-about>

## About Bodily Autonomy, Self-Determination and Doe ex. rel. Tarlow v. D.C.

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“Bodily autonomy: Busting 7 myths that undermine individual rights and freedoms”: <https://www.unfpa.org/news/bodily-autonomy-busting-7-myths-undermine-individual-rights-and-freedoms>

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ASAN “Self-Determination”: [https://  
autisticadvocacy.org/self-determination/](https://autisticadvocacy.org/self-determination/)  
(in plain language)

ASAN “The Right to Make Choices:  
International Laws and Decision-Making  
by People with Disabilities”: [https://  
autisticadvocacy.org/policy/toolkits/  
choices/](https://autisticadvocacy.org/policy/toolkits/choices/) (in Easy Read/plain language)

ASAN “Letter to Senate Judiciary Committee On Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. District of Columbia”: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/2018/09/asan-letter-to-senate-judiciary-committee-on-doe-ex-rel-tarlow-v-district-of-columbia-2/>

\* Rewire News Group “Brett Kavanaugh’s ‘Forced Abortion’ Decision Is About Far More Than Reproductive Rights”: <https://rewirenewsgroup.com/article/2018/08/28/brett-kavanaughs-forced-abortion-decision-is-about-far-more-than-reproductive-rights/>

# About Roe v. Wade, Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, and Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

Washington Post "Who was Jane Roe, and how did she transform abortion rights?":

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NPR "Roe established abortion rights.

20 years later, Casey paved the way

for restrictions": [https://www.npr.](https://www.npr.org/2022/05/06/1096885897/roe-established-abortion-rights-20-years-later-casey-paved-the-way-for-restricti)

[org/2022/05/06/1096885897/roe-](https://www.npr.org/2022/05/06/1096885897/roe-established-abortion-rights-20-years-later-casey-paved-the-way-for-restricti)

[established-abortion-rights-20-years-later-](https://www.npr.org/2022/05/06/1096885897/roe-established-abortion-rights-20-years-later-casey-paved-the-way-for-restricti)

[casey-paved-the-way-for-restricti](https://www.npr.org/2022/05/06/1096885897/roe-established-abortion-rights-20-years-later-casey-paved-the-way-for-restricti)

Center for Reproductive Rights “Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization”  
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KFF “Abortion at SCOTUS: Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health”: <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/abortion-at-scotus-dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health/>

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\* NPR "Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, ending right to abortion upheld for decades": <https://www.npr.org/2022/06/24/1102305878/supreme-court-abortion-roe-v-wade-decision-overturn>

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<https://bpr.berkeley.edu/2020/11/04/americas-forgotten-history-of-forced-sterilization/>

\* ACLU “Immigration Detention and Coerced Sterilization: History Tragically Repeats Itself”: <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/immigration-detention-and-coerced-sterilization-history-tragically-repeats-itself>

\* National Women’s Law Center “Forced Sterilization of Disabled People in the United States”: [https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/%C6%92.NWLC\\_SterilizationReport\\_2021.pdf](https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/%C6%92.NWLC_SterilizationReport_2021.pdf) (in plain language)

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\* The Conversation “Forced sterilization policies in the US targeted minorities and those with disabilities – and lasted into the 21st century”:  
<https://theconversation.com/forced-sterilization-policies-in-the-us-targeted-minorities-and-those-with-disabilities-and-lasting-into-the-21st-century-143144>

Autism Against Fascism “Introduction to ‘Positive Eugenics’ in the IDD Community”:  
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\* ASAN “Statement on Genetic Research and Autism”: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/genetic-statement.pdf> (in plain language)

# About Reproductive Justice

“Reproductive Justice Briefing Book: A Primer on Reproductive Justice and Social Change”: <https://www.protectchoice.org/downloads/Reproductive%20Justice%20Briefing%20Book.pdf>

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SisterSong “Reproductive Justice”: <https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice>

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\* National Poverty Center "The Colors of Poverty: Why Racial & Ethnic Disparities Persist": [http://www.npc.umich.edu/publications/policy\\_briefs/brief16/PolicyBrief16.pdf](http://www.npc.umich.edu/publications/policy_briefs/brief16/PolicyBrief16.pdf)

\* ASAN "Crisis in our Communities: Racial Disparities in Community Living": <https://autisticadvocacy.org/policy/toolkits/disparities/> (in Easy Read/plain language)

\* MMWR “Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016” <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6835a3.htm>

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\* National Council on Disability “Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children”: <https://www.ncd.gov/publications/2012/Sep272012>



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# **Our Bodies, Our Rights:** **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Words to Know**

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# Words to Know in this Toolkit



## Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



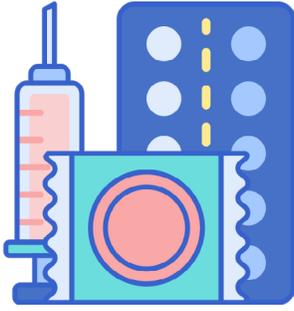
## Abortion funds

Groups that give money to people who need abortions.



## Amicus brief

A way for people who aren't part of a lawsuit to tell a court what decision it should make.



## Birth control

Medication that makes it so you can't get pregnant as long as you keep taking it.



## Bodily autonomy

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.

HELLO, I'M

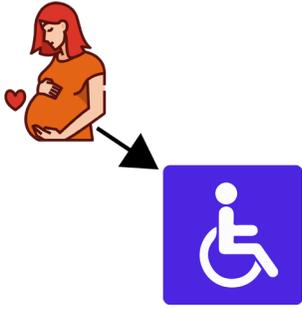
## Buck v. Bell

## Buck v. Bell

A Supreme Court case decided in 1927. Carrie Buck was a woman with an intellectual disability who lived in an institution. The state of Virginia wanted to forcibly sterilize her because she had an intellectual disability.

The state of Virginia had a law saying people living in institutions could be forcibly sterilized. Carrie Buck brought a lawsuit against the people who ran the institution. In Carrie Buck's case, she was asking the court to tell the people who ran the institution not to forcibly sterilize her.

The Supreme Court decided it was okay for the state of Virginia to sterilize Carrie Buck. The Supreme Court said it was alright because Carrie Buck had an intellectual disability.



## Complications

Medical conditions that happen because someone is pregnant.



## Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

Another Supreme Court case. The Supreme Court will make a decision in it this year, in 2022. We sometimes call Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization "Dobbs" for short.

In 2018, the state of Mississippi made a law saying pregnant people couldn't get abortions if the fetus was more than 15 weeks old. This goes against what the Supreme Court said in Roe and in Casey.

Now, Mississippi is asking the Supreme Court to change its mind. Mississippi wants the Supreme Court to undo its decisions in Roe and Casey.

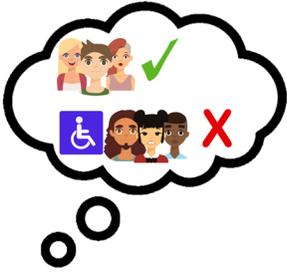


## Doe ex. rel. Tarlow v. D.C.

A court case that has to do with bodily autonomy for people with disabilities. Three women with intellectual disabilities brought a lawsuit against the Washington, D.C. Developmental Disabilities Administration. The women said that the Developmental Disabilities Administration forced them to have surgery against their will.

Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. D.C. did not go to the Supreme Court. But one of the lower court judges who decided it is now a Supreme Court justice. That justice's name is Brett Kavanaugh.

In Doe ex rel. Tarlow v. D.C., Brett Kavanaugh said that the Developmental Disabilities Administration didn't have to ask the women what they thought about the surgeries. Brett Kavanaugh said that what the women thought about the surgeries didn't matter.



## Eugenics

The idea that some people have “good traits” and some people have “bad traits.” People who support eugenics think that people they believe have “good traits” should have lots of children. They want to get rid of groups of people that they think have “bad traits.” They want to make sure those people don’t have children.

People who believe in eugenics think that people with disabilities are worth less. People who believe in eugenics also think that people of color are worth less.



## Fetus

The new human growing inside a pregnant person.



## Forced sterilization

When the government forces someone to get a surgery that makes it so that person can't have children.



## Justice

A judge on the Supreme Court.



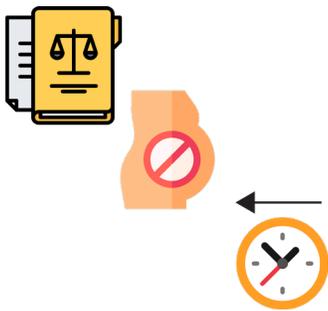
## Lawsuit

When you take someone to court. You tell the court what the person did or is trying to do to you. Then, you ask the court to tell the person what to do.



## Medication abortion

When a pregnant person takes pills to end their pregnancy.



## Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

A Supreme Court case decided in 1992. Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other health care. They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state. The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal. But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



## Reproductive

When something is about having children.



## Reproductive justice

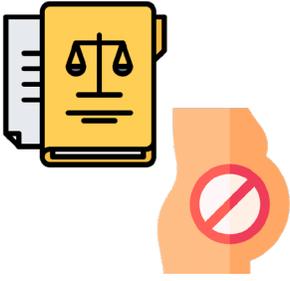
A human right that says all people have the right to:

- Have bodily autonomy and self-determination
- Have children, if they want to
- Not have children, if they want to
- Parent their children in a safe and healthy world



## Right to privacy

A right that says the government should not interfere with people's privacy. When we say "the right to privacy," we are not talking just about people doing things in private. We are talking about the government not getting to decide what people do in their personal lives.



## Roe v. Wade

A Supreme Court case decided in 1973. We sometimes call Roe v. Wade “Roe” for short. A woman who went by the fake name Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas. But Texas law said that abortion was illegal. So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion. The Supreme Court decided that abortion had to be legal in most cases during pregnancy.



## Self-determination

The right to make choices about your own life. Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.



## Sexually assaulted

Being forced to have sex with someone.



## Sterilized

Having surgery so you cannot get pregnant anymore.



## Supported decision-making

A way to make decisions. A person with a disability chooses someone to help them understand or communicate a decision. The person they choose is their supporter. The person with a disability makes their own decision and can get help from the supporter.



## Supporter

A person that a person with disabilities chooses to help them make or communicate a decision.



## Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States.  
They have the final say on laws.



## Surgical abortion

When a pregnant person has surgery to  
end their pregnancy.