

Family & ProLife News Briefs

June 2025

Education, IVF, Marriage

When Does Human Life Actually Begin?

Pro-abortion people will say “after the child is born and can sustain life on its own.” Pro-Life People will answer “at conception.” The Middle will say something like “9 weeks,” “12 weeks,” “20 weeks,” “feels pain,” or “heartbeat.”

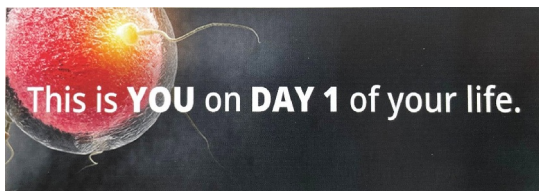
These answers have been deeply ingrained into the psyche of the Middle-Minded from years of debate over when it is acceptable and not acceptable to have an abortion. Their **confusion is so deeply rooted** that we must start here by reframing what generations have learned through years of misinformation

The image here applies to every human. It does not matter if you are male or

female, or what race you are, or where you were born, all humans look the same on Day 1. [excerpt from *wtt magazine*, www.weteachthink.com, July 2024]

Other groups also use visual images to educate such as:

■ ProLife Across America that places highway billboards in 42 states. Here is an example of one of their designs.



■ LIFENET, Inc., uses a royal blue color for a variety of its clothing and written materials including this visual car magnet, available upon request.

■ On the road and on college campuses, the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform uses stark



images to stimulate conversations. This photo is of a CBR truck driving thru Phoenix, AZ.

(www.abortionNO.org)

■ Hundreds of lawn banners, displayed on church and other locations, are distributed free of charge by the Life Education Council which offers a wide variety of designs, especially banners designed to help local pregnancy centers.



This monthly newsletter is used by dozens of churches as a bulletin insert and as a handout. Since 2013 it has had over 30,000 readers and is now posted on three diocesan websites. To receive each month's free issue in your inbox, email Frank Tinari, Ph.D. at tinarifr@shu.edu

In Alabama, Frozen Embryos Are Children

The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that **frozen embryos qualify as children** under state law in cases involving the wrongful death of children. The ruling was issued for two wrongful death lawsuits brought by In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) patients against a fertility clinic after another patient removed embryos from a storage unit and killed them in December 2020.

“The text of the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act is sweeping and unqualified. It applies to all children, born and unborn, without limitation.” wrote Justice Jay Mitchell on behalf of the majority. “That is especially true where, as here, the People of this State have adopted a Constitutional amendment directly aimed at **stopping courts from excluding ‘unborn life’ from legal protection.**” Concurring Chief Justice Tom Parker wrote that the meaning of the “sanctity of unborn life” is based on theological arguments grounded in Biblical teachings. His opinion cites renowned theologians such as Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine in addition to Biblical passages. [excerpt, J. Lynch, Alabama Supreme Court Rules Frozen Embryos Are Children under State Law, www.nationalreview.com, 2/2024]

Heartbreaking Custody Battles

A Georgia woman is suing an in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinic after discovering that the **child she gave birth to was not biologically hers** due to an embryo mixup. In February 2024, Krystena Murray contacted Coastal Fertility, which then notified the baby's biological parents who sued for custody. Without legal grounds to keep the child, Murray voluntarily relinquished the baby to his genetic parents five months later. Her attorney said “This is the cardinal sin for fertility clinics, to transfer the wrong embryo into one of your patients. It should never happen. Ms. Murray does not know if Coastal Fertility transferred to another couple an embryo that belonged to her that should have been transferred to her. She does not know if her biologically related child is being raised by anyone else.”

According to reports by NBC News, a couple in New York claimed their embryos were transferred to another patient. In 2019, two California **women gave birth to each other's babies** due to an IVF mix-up, spending months raising the children before the mistake was discovered.

Following the U.S. President's executive order expanding IVF access, CatholicVote stated: “IVF is NOT the solution to the skyrocketing infertility rates. The IVF industry prioritizes profit over people. There are **ethical forms of fertility treatment** that help families identify the root cause of their infertility. Subsidizing Big Pharma and IVF is not the answer.” [excerpt, Elise DeGeeter, Georgia woman sues IVF clinic ..., www.CatholicVote.com, 2/19/25]

Adverse Effects on Women from Mifepristone

A comprehensive study of 865,727 public health insurance patients between 2017 and 2023 found that more than 1 in 10 women who take the mifepristone abortion pill to complete a chemical abortion will suffer at least one **“serious adverse event”** within 45 days of taking mifepristone for an abortion. Published by the Ethics & Public Policy Center (EPPC), the study found that thousands were hospitalized, more than 1,000

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Adverse Effects on Women (from page 1)

needed blood transfusions, and hundreds suffered from sepsis. For a few thousand cases, ectopic pregnancy was undetected.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lowered the number of in-person doctor visits to obtain mifepristone from 3 to 1 in 2016 & then to zero in 2023. In 2016, the FDA also removed requirements that the drugs be dispensed by a physician, taken in an office, and dropped the follow-up appointment rule & mandatory reporting of adverse events. In 2023, the FDA opened up drug mail delivery by ending the rule that they must be dispensed in a doctor's office. More than half of all abortions nationwide now use mifepristone.

"The abortion industry tells women that the abortion pill is as safe as Tylenol," the authors said. "That is fundamentally false. Because **most women are denied the truth** about the abortion drugs, they are terribly unprepared for subsequent complications." Father Tad Pacholczyk, a senior ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) said the report "reminds us again how these toxic agents do not even belong in the field of medicine, which at its core is a healing ministry, since they directly target the life of unborn human patients. Women are entitled to **more restrictive regulation** over those distributing these drugs, improved follow-up and reporting the aftermath of their self-administration," he said.

The researchers at EPPC recommend that prior safeguards be reinstated that would require three in-person doctor visits, confirmation that the woman's pregnancy is still within the first seven weeks, as was originally required by the FDA, require that the drug be prescribed by a physician in person, and reestablish the mandatory reporting of adverse events. [Tyler Arnold, Study of over 865,000 abortion pill patients, www.CatholicNewsAgency.com, 4/28/25]

Hastening Death

- Euthanasia killings in the Netherlands increased by 10% between 2023 and 2024, with nearly 10,000 killed by doctors in one year. Lethal death also increased for the mentally ill and dementia patients. The report doesn't say how many of these people were organ-harvested.
- Nearly 4,000 Belgians were euthanized in 2024 including 120 people traveling there from other nations to be killed.
- Hospices & palliative care facilities in England are facing budget cuts, moving people toward 'choosing' hastened death.
- The New Hampshire House voted to table an assisted-suicide legalization bill.
- According to an article in the *British Medical Journal*, doctors cannot accurately determine who will die soon. "Prognosis is inherently uncertain ... to reliably and safely identify that a person is expected to die within six months."
- After Japanese doctors euthanized an ALS patient, they were imprisoned for the crime, Japan is serious about preventing euthanasia. [excerpt, Wesley J. Smith, *Lifeline*, Life Legal Defense Foundation, Spring 2025]
- NOTE: "Medical aid in dying" is currently authorized in eleven states and Washington, D.C.

Gen Z and Understanding Abortion

At a recent March for Life in Washington, Kayley Fruendt, a college sophomore, discussed the influence of social media on Gen Z. "I think there's a real lack of education on what abortion is in my generation." She cited the level of misinfor-

mation regarding abortion and **efforts to coerce people into getting an abortion**. Someone she knows personally was deeply influenced by this media and sadly succumbed to these influences and had an abortion. The result is that the woman feels "terrible" about her decision.

Although raised in a Christian family, Kayley states she was under-educated about the issue of abortion until her late high school and early college years. "I really had to face this question and search out what I thought was right." She joined a pro-life club in college and with the help of her pastor, she developed a grasp of the issues. "To March for Life means to **fight for the principle** of justice for both mother and child." The first thing I would recommend to get involved with the pro-life issue is to pray and seek the Lord. Follow where he leads you and find a community that supports you in your calling from the Lord." Wisdom from a young lady! [Timothy Cockes, Southern Baptists Join Thousands ..., *Baptist Press*, 1/23/25]

The Status of Matrimony

In *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) the Supreme Court found a constitutional right to **same-sex marriage**, declaring that marriage was a "keystone of our social order" and "essential to our most profound hopes and aspirations." This high view of marriage reflected the arguments of writers who said same-sex wed couples would strengthen marriage, reaffirm its social centrality, and lead to a revival of marriage generally. Yet **Americans are less likely to be married today** than they were ten years ago, continuing a preexisting trend. Far from bringing about a revival of marriage, *Obergefell* has been followed by its steady decline.

No one was more influential in advancing the conservative argument for gay marriage than the journalist Andrew Sullivan. In his 1995 book *Virtually Normal* he suggested that gays and lesbians would embrace marriage with "as much (if not more) commitment as heterosexuals." Yet today gay couples are much **less likely to seek the public recognition of marriage** than straight couples are. Jonathan Rauch, in his 2005 book, *Gay Marriage: Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America*, warned that "preserving the ban on same-sex marriage will in fact weaken marriage, a little at first but then more over time" and "legalizing same-sex marriage would indeed strengthen the mission and message of marriage."

In 1980, only 5% of middle-aged Americans had never married. By 2030, that number will stand at 25%. Whereas 79.6% of women & 65.3% of men born between 1940 & 1944 were married by age 25, that was true for only 30.3% of women & 20.3% of men born from 1990 to 1994. No strengthening of marriage is in sight. *Obergefell* succeeded in establishing a right to gay marriage but failed to deliver its own lofty rhetoric.

Affirming individuality, Justice Kennedy wrote that "the right to personal choice regarding marriage is inherent in the concept of individual autonomy. **Society promotes individual autonomy to such a degree that it undermines all forms of permanence, especially marriage.** Rejecting same-sex marriage is increasing, especially among the young who may have a well-founded suspicion that the redefinition of marriage is part of a larger project that claims to enlarge their freedom while making their lives less noble and dignity more difficult to obtain. The growing opposition to same-sex marriage is likely to continue. [excerpt, Matthew Schmitz, *How Obergefell Failed*, www.FirstThings.com, 5/12/25]