

The Legal Basis for Abortion

Written by Carol Brown

Thursday, 25 January 2007 05:03

- [Buy OEM proDAD ReSpeedr 1 \(64-bit\)](#)
- [Buy Cheap Rosetta Stone - Learn Spanish \(Latin America\) \(Level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Set\) MAC](#)
- [Buy BeLight Software Art Text 2 MAC \(en\)](#)
- [Buy Adobe Dreamweaver CS5.5 Student And Teacher Edition \(cs,pl,tr,de,es,it,pt,fr,nl,sv,en\)](#)
- [Discount - Photoshop CS4 For Dummies](#)
- [Download Adobe Creative Suite 5 Master Collection Student and Teacher Edition MAC](#)
- [Discount - Lynda.com - After Effects Apprentice 14: Shape Layers](#)
- [319.95\\$ Autodesk InfraWorks 2014 \(64-bit\) cheap oem](#)
- [Discount - Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013](#)
- [Buy Adobe Premiere Pro CS6 Classroom in a Book \(en\)](#)
- [Buy OEM Autodesk Maya 2012 \(32-bit\)](#)
- [Discount - Lynda.com - Illustrator CC One-on-One: Advanced](#)
- [Buy OEM Slysoft AnyDVD 6](#)

It was the *Gisswold v. Connecticut* case in 1965 that struck down state laws prohibiting married couples from using birth control; the law was ruled unconstitutional because it violated marital privacy, a right protected by the Constitution.

In 1967, the *Eisenstadt v. Baird* decision made it possible for unmarried women to obtain birth control because the right of privacy inheres in the individual, not in the marital relationship. And now to 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court decides in *Roe v. Wade*

that the constitutional right to privacy extends to a woman's decision, in consultation with her physician, to have an abortion. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun wrote the majority opinion in the ruling stating that the Court had reaffirmed that there is a right of personal privacy implicit in the Constitution, founded in the 14th Amendment's concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action. This right of personal privacy includes a woman's decision to have an abortion during the first trimester of a pregnancy. But after the point of viability, he continued, when the fetus has a reasonable chance of surviving independently, the state may regulate or even prohibit abortion, except where it is necessary to save the life or health of the mother. These landmark cases have given millions of women fundamental freedom. Reproductive freedom encompasses the right to freely and responsibly determine when it's right for women to begin a family and control the number and spacing of our children. It means that we can pursue our hopes and dreams and realize a future full of possibilities.

P.S. The photo appearing in a Right to Life ad (*Quad-City Times*, January 22, 2007) showed a fetus at 16 weeks which happens to be four weeks past the legal stage for termination.

The Legal Basis for Abortion

Written by Carol Brown

Thursday, 25 January 2007 05:03

Carol Brown

QC National Organization for Women

PACG Women's Issues Forum