



Many people who support abortion are unaware of what the procedure actually entails. Many have bought into the myth that a child in the womb is just a “clump of cells,” or the myth that a woman can’t succeed if she has a baby, or the myth that there are no resources for her and her child. It is this ignorance and deception that leads to violence against the preborn; **knowledge and truth lead to life.**



So what exactly is an abortion anyway?

- the *deliberate* termination of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy

All abortions involve either:

- poisoning or starving a baby to death,
- suctioning a baby apart with a vacuum,
- using forceps to tear a baby apart,
- or forcing a baby into cardiac arrest.

Instruments Used:

- **Uterine Curette:** One side of the loop is sharp for cutting the child apart. The other side scrapes the uterus to remove the placenta.
- **Forceps:** This abortion tool is used for crushing, grasping, and pulling the child’s body apart.
- **Manual Vacuum Aspiration:** MVA is used to abort a child from 6 weeks to 12 weeks of age. This handheld syringe works by creating its own vacuum/suction.

What about the abortion pill?

- The abortion pill includes 2 types of pills.
- The first pill is called mifepristone or Mifeprex, and it kills children up to 10 weeks old by starving the baby of nutrients.
- The second pill is called misoprostol or Cytotec and taken a few days after the first, and this pill causes heavy bleeding and cramping to force a miscarriage.



Surgery and medication are meant to preserve or enhance life. The purpose of health care is to restore and maintain proper functioning of the human body. Abortion is the only surgery you are not meant to survive, and the abortion pill is the only pharmaceutical meant to kill a patient who didn’t ask for it.

Abortion is not health care.

The best way to approach someone about abortion is **not** to bombard them with endless facts, statistics, and science. The best way to discuss difficult issues is by using the Socratic method – that is, asking questions. When you ask questions and **respectfully** listen to their answers, the person might come to realize the inconsistency of their arguments for themselves.

Here are a few example questions you could ask:

- What is an abortion?
- How do they actually do an abortion?
- Why do you support abortion?
- Is there a point in pregnancy when you would oppose abortion?
- What is the cutoff line for when a baby should not be aborted?
- Is your support for abortion (or any restrictions on it) based on science or more of a “gut” feeling?
- Do you think the human dignity of babies in the womb increases over time?
- Are babies to you more valuable at 25 weeks than 12 weeks?
- Since abortion was legalized in 1973, do you think the science that supported legalizing it has become outdated?
- Is the source of our human dignity the wishes our parents have for us?
- Do you believe that babies who are born into poverty are less valuable than babies born into wealth?
- Do you think that the actions of our parents – good or bad – make us any more or less valuable than people born with different parents?
- Do you think babies in the womb with disabilities are better off aborted?
- Do you believe we get our human dignity at birth?
- Do you think there should be more medical alternatives for women who choose not to have an abortion?



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HOW TO Defend LIFE.

“My Body, My Choice.”

“We need abortion for cases of rape.”

“Women will die from illegal, unsafe abortions.”

“Stop forcing your religion on women.”

“Abortion is my constitutional right.”

“Women will be prosecuted for miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy.”

“Abortion is okay as long as it’s before they’re viable outside the womb.”

“It’s better to have an abortion if the child will have a disability.”

“Thousands of kids are going to end up in a broken foster care system.”

“Pro-lifers only care about children until they’re born.”

“I’m personally pro-life, but I would never restrict anyone else from having an abortion.”

How would YOU respond to these common arguments?

“My Body, My Choice”

We agree that a person has autonomy over their own body, but abortion isn't about a woman's body; it's about the baby's body. A woman's body is not being aborted; it is merely the “setting” for the abortion of the baby's body. The baby has their own unique body, DNA, unrepeatable genetic makeup, heartbeat, and organs. As the old adage goes, “My right to swing my fist ends where your nose begins.” Your right to do what you choose with your body ends where the body of your child begins. There are plenty of laws in place that restrict a person's bodily autonomy: you must wear seatbelts in a car, we can't consume alcohol in certain locations, we can't stand up as our plane is taking off. If you were to use “My Body, My Choice” to justify breaking those laws, you wouldn't be taken seriously. No matter how small it is, the baby's body is not the same as the mother's body. We don't consider pregnant women to have 20 fingers and toes, 2 hearts, and 2 brains. Bodily autonomy does not give a person the right to take away someone else's right to life.

“We need abortion for cases of rape.”

Rape is a horrific crime, and the rapist should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Women who are survivors of rape need care, support, healing, and community. Abortion can never undo the violence that has been committed. Instead, abortion subjects the woman and her child to yet another form of violence. Under current law, rapists aren't allowed to be sentenced to the death penalty. Putting the child to death gives more rights to the rapist than the child conceived from his crime. Our value as humans does not come from the circumstances of our conception. No one should be devalued for the crimes of their biological father.

“Women will die from illegal, unsafe abortions.”

Dr. Bernard Nathanson, the co-founder of the National Abortion Rights Action League and a key driver of legalized abortion, admitted to fabricating the myth of the back-alley crisis. “When we spoke of the [mass statistics], it was always 5,000 to 10,000 [women dying to self-induced abortion] a year,” Nathanson wrote. He later estimated that the actual number of maternal deaths was around 500. Legal or not, abortions are never safe. According to University of Michigan Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Elizabeth Shadigian, one in 10 women experiences immediate complications (20% of which are life threatening) following an abortion. Complications include **infection, hemorrhage, pulmonary or amniotic fluid embolism, injury to the reproductive organs and other internal organs, hospitalization, possible hysterectomy, future premature birth, placenta previa, and even death.** According to research from the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, post-abortive women face an 81% increased risk of mental health problems. Even after factoring in numerous demographic considerations, post-abortive women were found to be significantly more likely to face depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and abuse of drugs and/or alcohol. When the goal of a procedure is to **intentionally** end a person's life, it is impossible for it to be safe. Since abortions have been legalized, it has taken more than **63 million lives** in the United States alone. Outlawing abortion cannot possibly do more harm than it already has done.

“Stop forcing your religion on women.”

You don't have to be religious to recognize that life begins at conception. According to a 2018 academic study by University of Chicago researcher Dr. Steven Jacobs, 95% of biologists (including supermajorities of scientists who self-identify as “pro-choice” or “liberal”) affirm that life begins at fertilization. Our existence is a result of conception, and conception always results in a baby. At the moment of fertilization, a single, unique, unrepeatable, living human being is created. How do we know it's living? The embryo is constantly growing as cell division takes place, and it's processing nutrition; neither of these biological processes happen when something is nonliving. How do we know it's human? A preborn child has a human genome – twenty-three pairs of distinctly human chromosomes composed of uniquely human DNA. A living creature cannot transform into a different species. A simple change in location from the womb into the outside world cannot turn a nonhuman creature into a human being. Even if you deny science, our society claims to recognize the inherent value of a person's life. You see this manifest when we fight racism, sexism, or any other form of discrimination. If all life is *not* valuable, who gets to decide who deserves to live or die? Dehumanization has historically led to violence. Regardless of what religion we practice, we should be protecting the lives of the innocent and defenseless.

“Abortion is my constitutional right.”

The Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. The 7 men forming the majority claimed a “constitutional right to privacy” includes a woman's ability to end the life of her child through all 9 months of pregnancy. Justice Harry Blackmun wrote the *Roe v. Wade* opinion but admitted: “If prenatal personhood is established, the case for abortion collapses. For the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the 14th amendment.” **What is the 14th amendment?**

“No state may deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

This poses the question: Are preborn children persons within the original public meaning of the 14th amendment?

What is the definition of ‘person’ according to the 14th amendment?

Webster's dictionary in 1864 said a person was: A living human being, a man, woman, or child, or an individual of the human race. Children in the womb are human; therefore, they're people.

What is the proper understanding of the amendment?

If preborn children are human (which science tells us they are) then they are also people who demand complete protection under the Constitution. As Justice Hugo later put it, “The history of the amendment proves that the people were told that its purpose was to protect weak and helpless human beings.”

“Women will be prosecuted for miscarriage or ectopic pregnancies.”

Many examples given by pro-abortion activists of women going to jail after a miscarriage involve illegal drug use by the mother which is considered child abuse. The law is not targeting innocent mothers experiencing a tragic loss of life. Abortion is the direct and **intentional** murder of a child through tearing the limbs off of, crushing the skulls of, and poisoning a living child to death. This is what we're trying to stop. The truth is – legally and morally – treatment for a miscarriage, pre viable separation when a mother's life is in immediate danger, and ectopic pregnancies are **not** abortions and have never and *will never* be treated in such a way by the law.

“Abortion is okay as long as it's before they're viable outside the womb.”

The official “age of viability” is currently set at 24 weeks (even though babies have survived outside the womb earlier than that – the current record is 21 weeks and 5 days). So what changes between 24 weeks and 23 weeks and 6 days? Once the clock strikes midnight, does the fetus suddenly become a baby? No matter what time you point to during the 9 months of pregnancy, the child will always be a living human being. Arbitrarily drawing a line at a specific age a person needs to reach in order to secure their right to life is dangerous, inconsistent, and unreasonable.

“It's better to have an abortion if the child will have a disability.”

There are those who have come to believe that conditions such as Down syndrome are not compatible with life. This comes from a belief that people with disabilities are weak. This fear has no place in a world that stands for basic human rights. Instead of ending the lives of people who are different from us, let's celebrate their lives and their right to live up to their own unique, full potential. 67% of babies with Down syndrome are aborted in the United States – making this the most deadly form of discrimination. Let's embrace moms and dads who are choosing life for their babies who may be born with disabilities, and let's band together to focus on improving those lives – not preventing them.

“Thousands of kids are going to end up in a broken foster care system.”

This is false. There are an estimated 2 million couples waiting to adopt – which means there are 36 waiting families for every one child who is placed for adoption. If we outlawed abortion, most children would find a loving family. Very few kids would go into the foster care system. But even if that wasn't the case, we should never kill a person because they might have a difficult life. Life offers no guarantees, but **abortion offers no chances.**

“Pro-lifers only care about children until they're born.”

There are more than 2,700 Pregnancy Resource Centers across America. That's more than 3x the number of abortion facilities. Only 17% of Pregnancy Resource Centers receive federal or state funding – which means that 83% of Pregnancy Resource Centers depend on their pro-life communities and generous donors to establish and sustain them in order to serve families in need. Pregnancy Resource Centers often offer **FREE** pregnancy testing, STI testing, ultrasounds, counseling, adoption aid, financial aid, diapers, formula, maternity and baby clothes, housing support, parenting classes, and much more – all while abortion facilities profit from killing the innocent babies of distressed mothers. We care about life before **and** after birth.

To find a Pregnancy Resource Center near you, visit lifelinks.io/centers

“I'm personally pro-life, but I would never restrict anyone else from having an abortion.”

People who claim to be “personally pro-life” in an effort to be empathetic towards other views are perpetuating a culture that devalues life. If you are “personally pro-life” because you know abortion kills a child, you should be against every abortion. You would never say: “I'm personally opposed to child abuse, but I can't take away another person's right to abuse children.” It is impossible to be just “personally pro-life.” Either the fetus is not a human person and has no moral significance, or they are an innocent human being, and nothing could ever justify intentionally ending their life. We either believe in the right to life of all humans, or we don't.

Age measured from fertilization, not from the woman's last menstrual period (LMP).
LMP generally adds 2 weeks to age from fertilization.

Sex, ethnicity, hair & eye color determined

begins to beat
(3 weeks)

Brain activity
can be recorded
(6 weeks)

Every organ
is present
(8 weeks)

Finger & toe
nails appear
(10 weeks)

Can smile
(11 weeks)

Fingerprints
(12 weeks)

Mother feels
movements
(14 weeks)

Sucks thumb
(16 weeks)

Ultrasound shows
speaking movements
(18 weeks)

Can survive outside
womb with special
medical treatment
(21 weeks)

Sleeping & waking
at regular intervals
(25 weeks)

Can recognize the
mother's voice
(27 weeks)

Begins dreaming
(26 - 30 weeks)

Skin smooths
(31 weeks)

Considered
“early term”
(35 weeks)

Typically 6 - 9 lbs
& 18 - 21 inches
(37 - 38 weeks)

1ST TRIMESTER

2ND TRIMESTER

3RD TRIMESTER

