



FACT SHEET

Planned Parenthood Arizona v. Goddard

ABOUT Planned Parenthood Arizona v. Goddard

The Arizona Legislature passed laws to prohibit non-physicians from performing surgical abortions, provide for women to receive full and accurate information at least 24 hours before an abortion, protect health care workers who object to performing or facilitating abortions, and require notarized parental consent for minors seeking abortions. The legislation also ensures that women receive information on abortion alternatives, long-term medical risks, and the probable gestational age of the preborn child at the time of the requested abortion. Planned Parenthood is challenging these common-sense regulations in state court.

CURRENT STATUS OF Planned Parenthood Arizona v. Goddard AS OF 2/4/10

The court granted the Alliance Defense Fund and the Center for Arizona Policy permission to file a friend-of-the-court brief in the case, but they are appealing the court's decision to deny doctors, several organizations, and the bill's sponsors the ability to intervene in the lawsuit to defend the laws. In September 2009, the Arizona Superior Court for Maricopa County granted Planned Parenthood's preliminary injunction to block the new laws while the lawsuit moves forward. In a separate federal lawsuit, ADF and CAP attorneys, together with co-counsel from the Bioethics Defense Fund, successfully intervened on behalf of the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix and the Arizona Catholic Conference to defend provisions of the law being challenged by a Tucson abortion clinic.

FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

The health and safety of women and their right to make decisions with full and accurate information is at stake. The Feb. 5 hearing concerns the state's motion to dismiss a portion of Planned Parenthood's lawsuit as well as a motion to intervene filed by the Arizona speaker of the House, who also wishes to defend the new laws. Deborah Sheasby, legal counsel with CAP and an ADF-allied attorney, will be available for media interviews following the hearing.

The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld 24-hour waiting periods. According to a recent [Harris poll](#), 88 percent of adults support laws which require abortion providers to inform mothers of possible risks to their health and of abortion alternatives, 95 percent favor laws ensuring that abortions be performed only by licensed physicians, and 73 percent support laws requiring parental involvement in a minor's abortion. A May 2009 [Rasmussen poll](#) found that "most Americans (52%) now think it is too easy to get an abortion in America." An additional poll indicates that [87 percent of Americans](#) believe that health care workers should not be forced to participate in abortions. A May 2009 [Gallup poll](#) found that the majority of Americans now consider themselves pro-life.

CONTACT

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ABOUT ADF

ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. Launched in 1994, ADF employs a unique combination of [strategy, training, funding, and litigation](#) to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family.

ABOUT Deborah Sheasby

Deborah Sheasby serves as legal counsel with the Center for Arizona Policy, where she is a voice for religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and timeless family values in the courts and at the Arizona Legislature. Sheasby joined CAP in 2007 and was admitted to practice law in Arizona with the highest score on the July 2007 bar exam. She is also admitted in Arizona district court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She is an ADF-allied attorney.

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