Chronology of major abortion cases, 1973–2004

Roe v. Wade—1973, 410 U.S. 113

Found abortion legal and established the trimester approach of unrestricted abortion in the first trimester, reasonably regulated abortion in relation to the woman's health in the second trimester, and permitted states to prohibit abortion in the third trimester, except when necessary to preserve the woman's life or health.

Doe v. Bolton—1973, 410 U.S. 179

Held unconstitutional Georgia's statute requiring performance of abortions in hospitals, approval by hospital abortion committee, confirmation by two consulting physicians, and restriction to state residents.

Bigelow v. Virginia—1975, 421 U.S. 809

Made invalid the application of a Virginia statute that prohibited the advertisement of abortion services.

Connecticut v. Menillo—1975, 423 U.S. 9

Ruled that states may require that abortions must be performed by physicians. This case was an appeal of a conviction of a nonphysician for performing abortions.

Planned Parenthood of Central Missouri v. Danforth—1976, 428 U.S. 52

Ruled that a state may not require the written permission of a spouse or the consent of a parent, in the case of a minor, for an abortion. Further ruled that the state could not prohibit the use of saline injection abortions, and found the provision requiring the physician to preserve the life of the fetus "unconstitutionally overbroad."

Maher v. Roe—1977, 432 U.S. 464; **Beal v. Doe**—432 U.S. 438; **Poelker v. Doe**—432 U.S. 519

Ruled that, although the state could not ban abortion, it was under no legal obligation to fund nontherapeutic abortions or provide the public facilities for such abortions.

Colautti v. Franklin—1979, 439 U.S. 379

Overturned a Pennsylvania law that required physicians to try to save the fetus even if the fetus was less than six months developed and not yet viable.

Bellotti v. Baird—1979, 443 U.S. 622

Found that a statute requiring a minor to get her parents' consent or to obtain judicial approval following parental notification unconstitutionally burdened the minor's right to an abortion.

Harris v. McRae—1980, 448 U.S. 297

Found that the Hyde Amendment did not impinge on a woman's freedom to terminate a pregnancy but, rather, encouraged alternatives deemed to be in the public interest. This ruling also permitted use of federal Medicaid funds only for abortions necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman.

Williams v. Zbaraz—1980, 448 U.S. 358

Ruled that states do not have to pay for medically necessary abortions for women on Medicaid (as in *Harris* v. *McRae*). This case was a challenge to a version of the Hyde Amendment in Illinois.

H.L. v. Matheson—1981, 450 U.S. 398

Upheld a Utah statute requiring a physician to notify a minor's parents of their daughter's intention to obtain an abortion.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas City, Missouri v. Ashcroft—1983, 462 U.S. 476

Found unconstitutional that all abortions after 12 weeks of pregnancy be performed in a hospital, but upheld a provision requiring pathology reports for every abortion, the presence of a second physician for abortions performed after viability, and parental consent or judicial bypass for minors.

City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health, Inc.—1983, 462 U.S. 416

Held unconstitutional the following requirements: that all abortions after the first trimester be performed in a hospital, parental consent or judicial order be required for all minors under 15 years of age, specific information designed to dissuade a woman from abortion be presented, a 24-hour waiting period be observed, and methods for the disposal of fetal tissue be established.

Simopoulos v. Virginia—1983, 462 U.S. 506

Upheld Virginia hospitalization requirement that included outpatient clinics. This case was an appeal of a criminal conviction of a physician for violating a Virginia law that requires all post-first-trimester abortions to be performed in hospitals. Virginia law provides for licensing of freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities as "hospitals." If Dr. Simopoulos's clinic had been licensed, criminal prosecution could have been avoided. The Virginia law is constitutional and not as restrictive as the laws struck down in **City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health, Inc.** (1983) and **Planned Parenthood of Kansas City, Missouri v. Ashcroft** (1983)

Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists—1986, 476 U.S. 747

Ruled that the information required under "informed consent," public reports, and disclosure of detailed information about abortions performed were not reasonably related to protecting a woman's health.

Webster v. Reproductive Health Services—1989, 492 U.S. 490

Upheld the Missouri law stating that "the life of each human being begins at conception." Also ruled that the state had the right to require physicians to perform viability tests on any fetus believed to be 20 or more weeks old, to forbid the use of public employees and facilities to perform abortions not necessary to save a woman's life, and to prohibit the use of public funds, employees, or facilities to counsel a woman to have an abortion not necessary to save her life.

Hodgson v. Minnesota—1990, 497 U.S. 417

Upheld a law requiring minors to notify both parents of an abortion decision because there was a provision for judicial bypass within the law.

Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health, Inc.—1990, 497 U.S. 502

Upheld ruling requiring one-parent notification plus judicial bypass. Also upheld a requirement that the physician personally notify the parent and ruled that states need not guarantee absolute anonymity to the minor seeking bypass.

Rust v. Sullivan—1991, 500 U.S. 173

Prohibited clinics that used Title X funds from counseling regarding abortion or giving abortion referrals.