

What can you do?

By knowing and understanding the U.S. Supreme Court's *Doe* decision, you can better understand the results of *Roe v. Wade*. If you support life and would like to learn more about how the decisions of *Roe* and *Doe* affect the lives of unborn children in the United States, here are some ideas on how you can get involved:

1. Share the information that you have learned from this brochure with others. You will be surprised at how many people haven't heard of *Doe v. Bolton* and don't know what "health" really means with regards to abortion.
2. Learn more about the *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions by reading the decisions and dissents. The text of both decisions can be found online on websites like oyez.org or caselaw.findlaw.com.
3. Contact Right to Life of Michigan to find out how you can get involved in your community.



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Do You Know Doe?

How *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* made abortion legal in all 50 states for any reason throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

We know Roe

Almost everyone has heard of the landmark abortion decision *Roe v. Wade* that was decided by the United States Supreme Court in 1973.

The lawyers of a woman with the fictitious name of Jane Roe (Jane Roe's real name is Norma McCorvey) challenged Texas' law prohibiting abortion and their case led to the U.S. Supreme Court which issued the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision. This decision overturned the abortion laws in all 50 states and created a "right" for a woman to have an abortion.

Who is Doe?

Even though most everyone in America has heard of *Roe v. Wade*, few know about the case that was decided with Roe. On the same day that *Roe v. Wade* was decided, another case, known as *Doe v. Bolton*, overturned Georgia's abortion law. These two companion cases were decided by the same vote and the decisions were both written by Justice Harry Blackmun.

So unless you understand Doe v. Bolton, you cannot fully understand the radical nature of Roe v. Wade.

What did Doe do?

Roe v. Wade said that states could restrict or ban abortion in the third trimester, but any law had to have an exception involving a woman's "health." Here's where Doe comes in. In Doe the U.S. Supreme Court defined "health" in very broad terms, far beyond actual, physical health: "all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age—relevant to the well-being of the patient."

Doe defines "health" in such a way that "health" can be any reason a woman can think up and an abortionist will agree to. Roe ruled that a woman could have an abortion in the first 6 months for any reason. Roe and Doe together said states can ban abortions in the third trimester as long as they allow it for any reason. Does that make sense?

What does Doe mean?

Roe plus Doe means that abortion is legal on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

Those in favor of abortion like to claim that there is no such thing as abortion-on-demand in the United States because Roe allows for restrictions on third-trimester abortions when a woman's life or health is endangered. This claim is completely misleading because it ignores the reality of *Doe v. Bolton*. By defining "health" so broadly, Doe has allowed abortion to be available for any reason and at anytime during a pregnancy. As a result, any general "health exception" in legislation means there are zero restrictions on abortion.

In June of 1983, the United States Senate Judiciary Committee issued a report explaining the true outcome of the Roe and Doe decisions that gave us unrestricted abortion-on-demand:

"The Senate Judiciary Committee observes that no significant legal barrier of any kind whatsoever exists today in the United States for a woman to obtain an abortion during any stage of pregnancy."