

THE DOS & DON'TS of prolife picketing

DO: Stay on a public sidewalk or walkway and keep moving while picketing.

DO: Bring literature about alternatives. However, this information can only be given with permission.

DO: Sing and speak about your message but stay positive and remember excessive noise volume could be interpreted as intimidating.

DO: Prepare for speaking to those interested in knowing more about your cause.

DO: Engage in conversation.

DON'T: Trespass on private property.

DON'T: Force contact with those entering an abortion facility.

DON'T: Lay picket signs on private property.

DON'T: Block access of pedestrians and vehicles at the picketing site.

DON'T: Harass or intimidate those entering the abortion facility.

DON'T: engage hecklers or counter-demonstrators in conversation and under no circumstances touch or threaten them.



prolife
picketing



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Updated 12/30/22

Guidelines and
Techniques

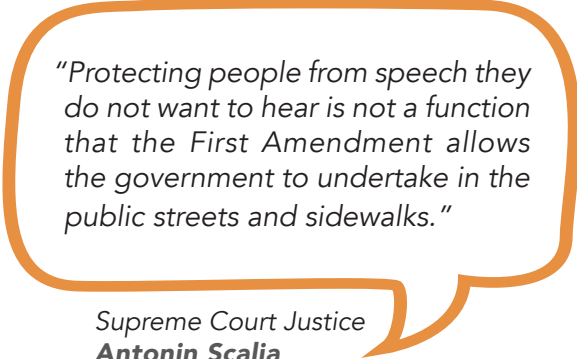
THE VALUE OF peaceful picketing

The health of a democratic society is fostered by the open expression of dissent by its citizenry on matters of justice and social policy. Public protest on matters of conscience is a fundamental part of the American tradition.

Picketing activities at abortion facilities or appearances by pro-abortion government officials serve to awaken the public conscience to the presence and evil of abortion. They can also educate abortion facility clients, those accompanying them, facility personnel, and the general public about the value of the unborn child, the potential physical and psychological harm to the mother as well as positive abortion alternatives.

Both the United States and Michigan Constitutions protect the fundamental free speech rights of citizens to peaceably speak, assemble, picket, and leaflet in public places. Right

to Life of Michigan supports peaceful and law-abiding picketing activities which exercise these free speech rights on behalf of the unborn. Because many women who opt for abortion do so under the duress of difficult circumstances, we encourages activities which communicate a willingness to assist in any way with difficult circumstances accompanying a decision to choose life.



"Protecting people from speech they do not want to hear is not a function that the First Amendment allows the government to undertake in the public streets and sidewalks."

Supreme Court Justice
Antonin Scalia

SUPREME COURT CASES on abortion protests

Schenck v. Pro-choice Network (1996)

Paul Schenck challenged a court injunction barring him from protesting near abortion clinics. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld creating 15 foot "buffer zones" at clinics, but ruled "floating buffer zones" around people were unconstitutional. The ruling was a way of maintaining public safety and a balance between the rights of protesters and the "right" to obtain an abortion. The decision leaves demonstrators free to picket, as long as women seeking abortions are not blocked from entering clinics.

Hill v. Colorado (2000)

The State of Colorado, in response to abortion clinics protests, created a law stating that protesters within one hundred feet of any health care facility may not approach within eight feet of any other person, without consent, for the purpose of protest, education, distribution of literature or counseling. The case focused on the idea of the "right to be let alone" and Colorado's law was upheld.

McCullen v. Coakley (2014)

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously struck down a law in Massachusetts that created a 35-foot "buffer zone" around abortion facility entries and exits. The case originated when the law was challenged by a grandmother who frequently prays in front of abortion facilities. The Court argued that the buffer zone harmed free speech. Since Eleanor McCullen wasn't harming anyone, and was peaceful, she was welcome to stay. The Court declined to re-examine their decision in Hill v. Colorado.