

Since 1973, approximately

**49,000,000**

abortions have been performed  
in the United States

## AN OVERVIEW OF ABORTION LAWS AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2007...

- ◆ 39 states require an abortion to be performed by a licensed physician, including Florida.
- ◆ 19 states require an abortion to be performed in a hospital after a specified point in the pregnancy (in third trimester in Florida).
- ◆ 18 states require the involvement of a second physician after a specified point (in third trimester in Florida).
- ◆ 14 states have laws in effect that prohibit “partial-birth” abortion, including Florida.
- ◆ 17 states use their own funds to pay for all or most medically necessary abortions for Medicaid enrollees in the state.
- ◆ 28 states mandate that women be given counseling before an abortion that includes information on at least one of the following: the purported link between abortion and breast cancer (3 states), the ability of a fetus to feel pain (6 states), long-term mental health consequences for the woman (3 states) or the availability of services and funding should the woman decide to carry the pregnancy to term (26 states including Florida).
- ◆ 24 states require a woman seeking an abortion to wait a specified period of time, usually 24 hours, between when she receives counseling and the procedure is performed. Six of these states have laws that effectively require the woman to make two separate trips to the clinic to obtain the procedure.
- ◆ 35 states require some type of parental involvement in a minor’s decision to have an abortion.
- ◆ 22 states require one or both parents to consent to the procedure, while 11 require that one or both parents be notified (including Florida) and 2 states require both parental consent and notification.

(Guttmacher Institute, 2007)

## What can you do?

- ◆ **Join or Support the Respect Life/Social Concerns Committee in Your Parish**
- ◆ **Start or Support a Gabriel Project in Your Parish**
- ◆ **Meet With Your Legislators as a Constituent, Communicating the Catholic Church Position on Life Issues**
- ◆ **Support Local Pregnancy Centers by Donating Your Time, Talents, and Treasure**
- ◆ **Tell Others about Project Rachel, a Post-Abortion Reconciliation/Counseling Program (Toll Free 877-908-1212)**
- ◆ **Pray for Those Who Have Been Involved in an Abortion**
- ◆ **Pray for the Life of Every Unborn Child and Their Parents**

*“From the first moment of existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person— among which is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life.”*

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, 2270

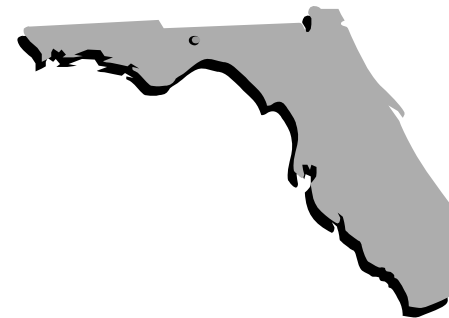
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### Culture of Life Series

Florida Catholic Conference  
201 W. Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
Phone: 850-222-3803  
Website: [www.flacathconf.org](http://www.flacathconf.org)

# Abortion: *The* *Detrimental Effects*



## Florida

### October 2007

## Abortion is linked to...

### Parental Notification Judicial Bypasses

A minor who is seeking an abortion and does not want her parents notified may petition any circuit court in a judicial circuit within the jurisdiction of the District Court of Appeals in which she resides for a waiver of notice, stating she is pregnant and notice has not been waived. The court shall rule within 48 hours after the petition is filed unless the minor requests an extension. If the court fails to rule within 48 hours and no extension has been requested, the petition is granted and notice is waived. Listed below are the judicial bypasses filed since this law passed in the 2005 legislative session.

Year	Petitions Filed	Granted	Dismissed	Granted without Judicial Order	Total Disposed
July 2005	450	423	27	0	450
June 2006					
July 2006	622	588	27	4	619
June 2007					
<b>Total</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>1011</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1069</b>

### In Florida there are...



#### \*NO LIMITS ON GESTATIONAL AGE

The life of an unborn baby in Florida or any state can be ended legally anytime during the nine-month period.

#### \*NO PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIRED FOR MINOR'S ABORTION

Florida's Parental Consent Law was struck down by the Florida Supreme Court in 1989.

#### \*NO ADEQUATE REPORTING GUIDELINES

No reporting of client's age, previous pregnancies, and gestational age by week, complications, or type of abortion procedure is required. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports these statistics for other states, but not in Florida due to deficient reporting requirements.

### Breast Cancer

"29 out of 41 worldwide studies reveal an abortion-breast cancer link... there are 17 statistically significant studies that show a link between abortion and breast cancer, 8 of which were conducted in the United States." - Dave Pierre, *The Media Report* (LifeNews.com, April 2007)

"The later in pregnancy an abortion is done, the higher the risk of breast cancer... induced abortion leaves a woman with more places for breast cancer to start" and data shows "there is a 3% increase in breast cancer risk for each week of gestation before the abortion." (Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, February 2007)

### Higher Rates of Child Abuse

"...the link between abortion and child abuse may be influenced by a number of key factors, including "unresolved grief" which "may negatively impact parental responsiveness to child needs, trigger anger, which is a component of grief, and/or increase parental anxiety regarding child well-being." - Priscilla Coleman, *Bowling Green State University* (Elliot Institute, March 2007)

### Mental Health Problems

"42% of women with a history of abortion had experienced major depression in the last four years (nearly double the rate of women who had not been pregnant and 35% higher than those who carried to term)." (Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 2006)

In a study comparing American and Russian women, "65% of American women studied experienced multiple symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which they attributed to their abortions... 84% said they did not receive adequate counseling." (Medical Science Monitor, 2004)

### Substance Abuse

"Women who abort are five times more likely to report subsequent drug or alcohol abuse than women who deliver." (American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 2000)

"Among women delivering their first pregnancy, women with a history of abortion are five times more likely to use illicit drugs and two times more likely to use alcohol during their pregnancies. This substance use places their unborn children at risk of birth defects, low birth weight, and death." (American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, December 2002)

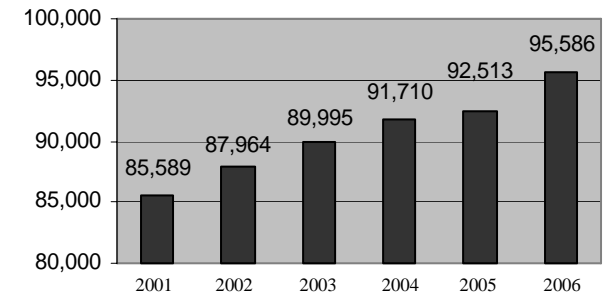
### Suicide

Finland medical records revealed that "aborting women were six to seven times more likely to commit suicide in the following year than were delivering women." (British Journal of Medicine, 1996)

"Teen girls are ten times more likely to attempt suicide if they had an abortion in the last six months than girls who have not had an abortion." (www.unchoice.info/resources.htm)

### Abortions in Florida 2001-2006

Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, 2006



**"Selfishness and fear are at the root of (pro-abortion) legislation... We in the Church have a great struggle to defend life... life is a gift not a threat."**

**Pope Benedict XVI**

(On Papal Plane to Brazil, Wednesday, May 9, 2007)

### Where U.S. Teens Stand on Abortion

Of a survey of 1,000 high school seniors...

- 47%** Identify themselves as pro-life
- 67%** Believe abortion is usually or always morally wrong
- 66%** Believe the law should require women under 18 to have parental consent before obtaining an abortion
- 43%** Know someone who has had an abortion
- 12%** Believe abortion should be legal in all cases
- 40%** Believe abortion should be legal in most cases
- 88%** Believe a woman should have a right to an abortion if pregnancy seriously threatens her health (Zogby International Polling Company, 2005)

**Abortion is destructive not only to unborn children but to the women, men and families involved. It is time to end the injustice, offer real choices, and open the door to healing.**

-From "Reversing the Gender Gap" in the Elliot Institute Special Report, September 2007