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Easy Read Edition

Our Bodies, Our Rights: **What's Going On at the** **Supreme Court?**

**Part 4: What changes have there
been to Roe?**

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Words to Know in Part 4



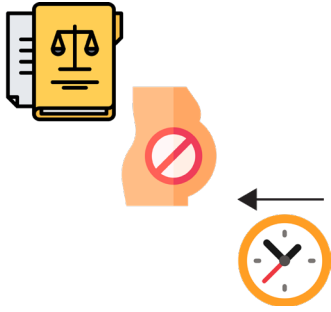
Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.



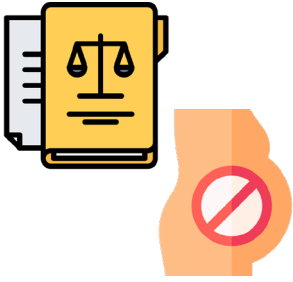
Fetus

The new human growing inside a pregnant person.



Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

A Supreme Court case decided in 1992. Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other health care. They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state. The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal. But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



Roe v. Wade

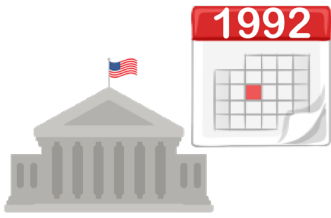
A Supreme Court case decided in 1973. We sometimes call Roe v. Wade “Roe” for short. A woman who went by the fake name Jane Roe needed an abortion in Texas. But Texas law said that abortion was illegal. So Jane Roe brought a lawsuit to try and change the law so she could get an abortion. The Supreme Court decided that abortion had to be legal in most cases during pregnancy.



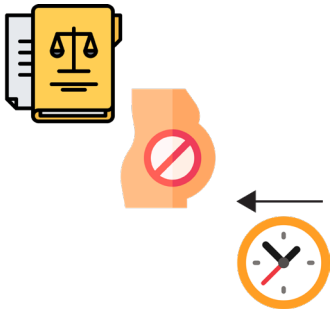
Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States. They have the final say on laws.

What changes have there been to Roe?



In 1992, the Supreme Court made a decision in another case.



This case was called **Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey**.



(We sometimes call Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey “Casey” for short.)



Planned Parenthood is a group that provides abortions and other kinds of health care.



They brought a lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania.



Pennsylvania had passed laws making it harder to get an abortion in that state.



The lawsuit made its way to the Supreme Court.



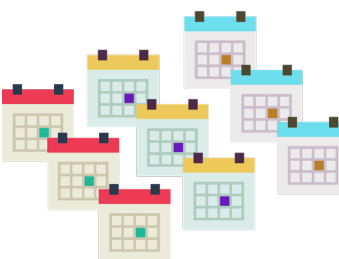
The Supreme Court made a decision in the case.



The Supreme Court decided that abortion would still be legal.



But the Supreme Court also decided that there could be more laws against abortions.



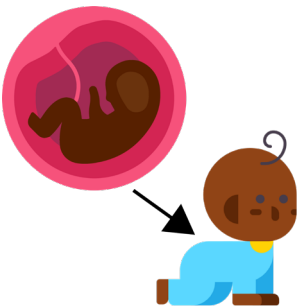
Before, the Supreme Court said laws about abortion needed to be based on how many months someone was pregnant.



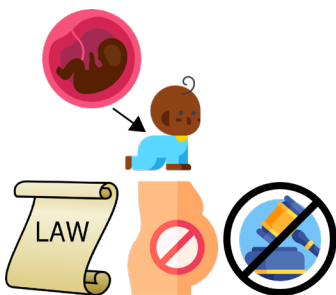
Now, the Supreme Court changed its mind.



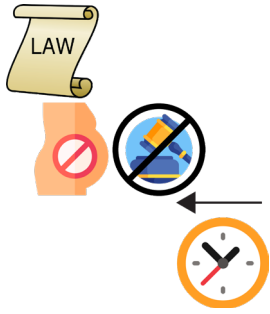
Now, the Supreme Court said the new system would be about fetal viability.



Fetal viability is whether the fetus can survive outside of the pregnant person's body.

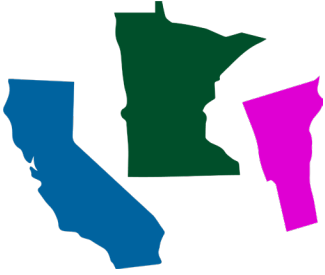


States could only pass laws making abortion illegal once the fetus could survive outside the pregnant person's body.



This meant that states could pass laws making abortion illegal earlier in people's pregnancies than before.

Where are we now?



Abortion is legal in some states.



It is illegal in other states.



States have been passing laws to make abortion illegal in their state.



States have been trying to do this since the Supreme Court decided Roe in 1973.



But some states have especially been trying to make abortion illegal in their state in the past few years.

For example:



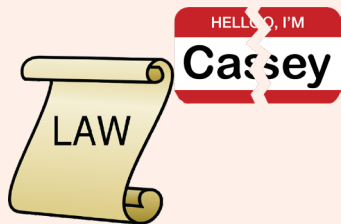
In 2018, the state of Mississippi made a law saying pregnant people couldn't get abortions if the fetus was more than 15 weeks old.



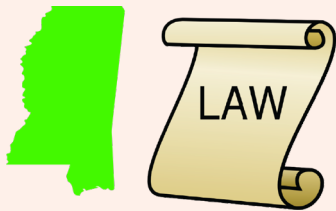
A fetus is not viable at 15 weeks old.



A fetus cannot survive outside the pregnant person's body at 15 weeks old.



So, Mississippi's law goes against what the Supreme Court said in Casey.



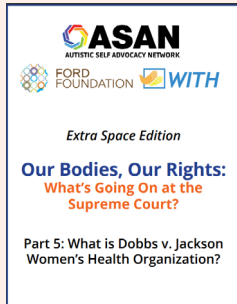
But Mississippi still made the law.



Mississippi still wanted abortion to be against the law after 15 weeks of pregnancy.



Mississippi's law is part of another Supreme Court case.



We will talk about that case in the next section.