Easy Read Edition

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

Part 6: What happened at the Supreme Court?
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Words to Know in Part 6
Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.
Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization

Another Supreme Court case. The Supreme Court will make a decision in it this year, in 2022. We sometimes call Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization “Dobbs” for short.

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. This goes against what the Supreme Court said in Roe and in Casey.

Now, Mississippi is asking the Supreme Court to change its mind. Mississippi wants the Supreme Court to undo its decisions in Roe and Casey.
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 happened at the Supreme Court?

The Supreme Court made a decision in Dobbs.

The decision said the Supreme Court would undo their decisions in Roe and Casey.

That means that Mississippi’s 15-week ban would be legal.

It means states can make abortion illegal all together again.
It means that in some states, pregnant people can’t get abortions at all anymore.

This is a very bad decision.

It means abortion is no longer a right in the United States.

This decision is already affecting people.

Many states have laws against abortion now.
People who need abortions now can’t get care in many states.

Some states have not banned abortion yet but likely will soon.

This will force people to need to travel to get abortions.

Many people will not be able to do this.

Those people will not be able to get abortions, even if they need abortions.
This decision is not right.

It is not fair.

Everyone who needs an abortion should be able to get one.

People shouldn’t have to travel between states to get abortions.