



The Love Life Case

Case Name: *Global Impact Ministries v. City of Greensboro*

Status: Active

Significance: Whether the government can restrict First Amendment rights under the guise of “emergency proclamation orders”.

Background: On March 30th of 2020, Greensboro police officers arrested several Christians for engaging in peaceful prayer outside an abortion facility, claiming that they were in violation of the local emergency proclamation related to the COVID-19 crisis. The officers arrested members of Christian ministry Love Life because they traveled by car and not by foot and because they traveled from outside the county—prohibitions found nowhere in the proclamation or in any law. The city also falsely claimed that the proclamation gives the city authority to prohibit all First Amendment activity. Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys represent those pro-life advocates who were wrongfully arrested by Greensboro police officers. In February 2022, Guilford County officials agreed to settle and pay \$15,000 toward the pro-life members’ attorneys’ fees, and to uphold citizens’ First Amendment rights in any future proclamation order related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Points:

- A police officers made clear that while walking into a store or a restaurant was permitted, praying while walking in the exact same spot was not. The same policy even permitted picnicking and golfing – but, according to the city, not praying while walking.
- If abortion facilities were allowed to remain open during the emergency proclamation, Christians should be allowed to pray outside – particularly those abiding by health and safety guidelines.
- It is evident that the government abused its power. Even during a crisis, banning the First Amendment is not an option.

Key Facts:

- Those who were arrested were in compliance with their county’s constantly changing policies – fewer than 10 people were gathered and they were at least 6 feet apart from each other.
- As the Supreme Court made clear, even in a pandemic, the government cannot treat religious activities worse than comparable non-religious ones.
- The local officials arrested members of Love Life for simply praying on a sidewalk.

The Bottom Line: This wasn’t about health and safety; this was an example of the government taking advantage of a crisis to silence speech it doesn’t like.