

## The *Planned Parenthood v. Mayes* Case

**Case Name:** *Planned Parenthood Arizona v. Mayes*

**Case Status:** Arizona Supreme Court oral argument to be held on Dec. 12, 2023.

**Significance:** Whether Arizona can protect life from its earliest stages.



**Background:** After the *Dobbs* decision came down in 2022, then-Attorney General Mark Brnovich asked the Arizona courts to allow for enforcement of Arizona’s pre-*Roe* law, which protects life from the moment of conception. The law includes criminal penalties for abortionists who perform unlawful abortions, and it has an exception for protecting the life of the mother. The Arizona AG’s request was granted; however, Planned Parenthood appealed. Soon after, pro-abortion Attorney General Kris Mayes took office and chose not to defend the pro-life law. Alliance Defending Freedom represents Dr. Eric Hazelrigg, an obstetrician and medical director of [Choices Pregnancy Center](#) in Arizona, serving as a representative of unborn children in the case, as well as Yavapai County Attorney Dennis McGrane in defending Arizona’s pro-life law. Dr. Hazelrigg and Dennis McGrane were granted intervention and are parties in the lawsuit.

### Key Points.

- The people of Arizona, through their elected representatives, have protected life for decades.
- Pro-life pregnancy centers, like Choices, are ready to provide support to women and families—they provide material resources like diapers, baby clothes, cribs, and car seats, as well as parenting classes, job training, and other forms of educational, financial, emotional, and professional support.
- Women and families facing unplanned pregnancies deserve real support and real health care.

### Key Facts

- Life begins at conception. At just six weeks, unborn babies’ [hearts begin to beat](#). At eight weeks, they have fingers and toes. And at 10 weeks, their unique fingerprints begin to form. States are recognizing their humanity and protecting life at its earliest stages.
- [Many women seeking abortions](#) say they’d prefer to choose life if they had more support. Many women report that their abortions were “[unwanted or coerced](#),” or that they felt “[high levels of pressure](#)” to abort.
- The pre-*Roe* law at issue in this case was codified in 1901, [reenacted in 1977](#), and then reaffirmed in 2022. Arizona’s 15-week law passed in 2022 specifically points out that it [does not repeal Arizona's pre-Roe law](#).

**The Bottom Line:** Arizona’s pro-life law affirms that life is a human right.