

Florida Amendment 4, Right to Abortion Initiative



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This measure would:

- Establish the “right” to an abortion in the state’s constitution
- Protect abortion up to viability (24 weeks gestation) with exceptions for the mother’s health, as determined by the mother’s healthcare provider (this could result in later-term abortions)
- Prevent any future attempts to regulate abortion before viability and could repeal many of the current “safeguards,” including parental consent

FLORIDA’S CURRENT LAW:

Abortion is legal up to 6 weeks, 0 days. Florida law allows abortions until 15 weeks in the cases of rape, incest, or human trafficking. Babies with fatal fetal anomalies can be killed through the second trimester. The law also includes exceptions for the life and health of the mother. Parental involvement is required for mothers aged 17 or younger. All mothers must have an ultrasound prior to the abortion.

Catholics should vote **NO** on Florida Amendment 4

A human being's life begins the moment the sperm fertilizes the egg. This is now a unique and unrepeatable person.

Abortion is the intentional killing of a human being before he or she is born. The Catholic Church teaches that abortion is never morally licit.

The Church teaches that neither rape nor incest justifies the taking of an innocent human being's life.

Doctors never need to intentionally kill the baby to save the mother's life; therefore the "life of the mother" argument is invalid. In his address to midwives, Pope Pius XII taught that a physician should do all he can to preserve both lives. If the baby dies while the doctor tries to save the mother, this is not considered an abortion.

Any formal cooperation in abortion constitutes a grave sin. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human beings (CCC 2272).



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American Life League • www.ALL.org
PO Box 6170, Falmouth, VA 22403
540-659-4171 • jbrown@all.org