



Why We Hold the 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil at the Center for Women's Health Abortion Facility

During the Fall 2013 and Spring 2014, the 40 Days for Life/Overland Park team held a prayer vigil at both the Center for Women's Health abortion facility and the Planned Parenthood Great Plains. After those two campaigns it was decided by the team that it would be better to hold our vigil at just one location with the intention of praying for both facilities to close doors, especially since the facilities are only 1/2 mile from each other.

That summer of 2014, the Kansas City Coalition for Life leadership team (who hosts the 40 Days for Life/Overland Park) spent three days of prayer and fasting seeking the Lord's guidance as to which abortion facility we should hold our vigil at. When the three days were over, we were unanimous in holding the prayer vigil at the Center for Women's Health (CWH).

Herbert Hodes, retired abortionist at the CWH, and his daughter, Traci Nauser, current abortionist at the CWH, are the ring leaders behind the suing of the state of Kansas over important pro-life bills passed in Kansas.

- 1) In 2011, a clinic licensing law was passed by the KS legislature to regulate the abortion facilities in KS. When inspectors arrived at the Center for Women's Health for their first, routine inspection, Hebert Hodes barred the door and refused them entry. He and Traci Nauser then entered litigation and sued the state of Kansas over this law. The Center for Women's Health would have closed in 2011 due to their failure to meet code regulations after this law was passed. (The Planned Parenthood Great Plains was inspected at this time and was found to have met the licensing requirements.) The court is sitting on this lawsuit, not making a decision, while in reality has made the decision to let this facility can stay open and operate all the while.
<https://www.operationrescue.org/archives/dangerous-delay-kansas-2011-abortion-clinic-licensing-law-languishes-in-legal-limbo/>
- 2) Second Trimester dismemberment abortions (D&E) are performed at the Center for Women's Health five days a week, Monday-Friday, up to 22 weeks without anesthesia for the baby. In July 2015 these very inhumane and violent abortions would have ended when then Governor Brownback signed the dismemberment ban into place. However, Herbert Hodes and Traci Nauser sued the state of Kansas over this ban.

The enforcement of the live dismemberment ban was blocked by Shawnee County District Court Judge Larry D. Hendricks in June of 2015. It was then completely voided by the Kansas Court of Appeals by a 7 to 7 vote in January 2016. (A tie upholds a lower court ruling.) The case then went to the Kansas Supreme Court (*Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt*). (Four of the seven members were appointed by former Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/23/us/kansas-court-of-appeals-voids-restrictive-2015-abortion-law.html>

During oral arguments heard by the Kansas Supreme Court in March of 2017, Herbert Hodes and Traci Nauser's attorney, Janet Crepps, told the Court that abortion should be considered a fundamental right, and that the Court's future ruling "*should allow all abortions at any stage of pregnancy and done for any reason.*"

In April 2019, in their answer to the dismemberment ban litigation, the Kansas Supreme Court egregiously ruled that abortion rights are protected under the 1859 Kansas Constitution. This could affect all previous pro-life laws put in place by Kansas legislators (congressmen and women who were voted into place by the will of the people). It's a travesty that the will of the people was silenced initially by a county judge, then a court of appeals, and finally a supreme court who would allow the perpetrators to continue to suction and dismember babies without anesthesia.

Kansas pro-life groups are currently in the process of amending the KS state constitution to make it clear that "one cannot infer from it the right to an abortion that would throw out 45 years of pro-life legislation in KS."-Mary Kay Culp

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/26/us/kansas-abortion-ruling.html>

Other logistical reasons for our decision to stand outside the Center for Women's Health

The KC Coalition for Life schedules volunteer sidewalk counselors year-round outside the CWH, so it's helpful to hold our 40 Days vigil where we already are. Several of our counselors are 40 Days for Life Day Captains. And since we're the only group counseling at the CWH, it would be a concern if we left it unattended for six weeks, twice a year (a total of three months) during the biannual 40 Days for Life, to go to the Planned Parenthood.

There are three different counseling groups who counsel outside the Planned Parenthood Great Plains year-round, covering all five mornings that they are opened. The strong counseling coverage at the PP is another reason we feel the CWH is the best place for our vigil.

The Kansas City Coalition for Life's three-part mission

1. To host the 40 Days for Life Overland Park twice a year.
2. To train and schedule counselors at the Center for Women's Health abortion facility.
3. To offer help, hope, and love on an ongoing basis to women who come to us as they leave their abortion appointment. This includes mentoring, counseling, and helping financially when needed. This also includes post-abortive ministry.