

## The *June Medical* Case

**Case Name:** *June Medical Services v. Russo*

**U.S. Supreme Court Docket Nos.:** 18-1323, 18-1460

**U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments Date:** March 4, 2020

**Significance:** Whether abortion providers representing their own interests can be exempt from a standard of care that applies to doctors at ambulatory surgical centers.



**Background:** Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of 80 current, former, and incoming Louisiana state legislators who voted for or support a law requiring abortion doctors, like doctors at ambulatory surgical centers, to hold admitting privileges at a nearby hospital. The brief in *June Medical Services v. Russo* explains that lawmakers have an interest in protecting women who seek an abortion and Act 620 does so by helping ensure the competence of doctors and promoting continuity of care and information exchange when medical complications arise. The brief argues that the petitioners, including abortion businesses like June Medical Services, lack standing in this case because their interests directly conflict with the interests of the women the law protects.

The brief details shoddy practices of the abortion industry in Louisiana, including the failure to report harm to women who have had abortions and the intentional destruction of medical records, and it tells the stories of real women – Brenda J., Audrey D., and D.C. – who have been hurt by abortion providers in Louisiana.

### Key Facts

- Unlike in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* – where the U.S. Supreme Court relied on general medical evidence and studies to strike down a Texas law requiring abortion providers to obtain admitting privileges – the specific and egregious practices of Louisiana abortion doctors support the legislature's conclusion that Act 620 will help protect women.
- Louisiana abortion providers have an alarming record of substandard healthcare, including botched abortions, the failure to report harm to women who had abortions, the intentional destruction of medical records, and the failure to satisfy basic sanitary requirements. Real women have been hurt by abortion providers in Louisiana.
- Louisiana's law requires abortion doctors, like doctors at ambulatory surgical centers, to be able to admit and treat their patients at a nearby hospital. This ensures that doctors performing abortions will be competent professionals who provide the continuity of care their patients deserve.

### Key Points

- Abortion doctors are claiming to represent women in their quest to eliminate safeguards for women's health. This is like an owner of a construction company claiming to represent employees' interests when challenging OSHA and other workplace-safety regulations. It's like a dentist who sues every time the government passes a safety measure to protect dental patients.
- Abortion doctors are asking for a special exemption from the standard that applies to doctors at ambulatory surgical centers. Women deserve better than that.
- All states – including Louisiana – have an interest in regulating abortion and a duty to protect women who undergo this life-altering procedure. Louisiana's law promotes the wellbeing of women.

**The Bottom Line:** We need to listen to women—not abortion providers.