



FACT SHEET

Brown v. City of Pittsburgh

ABOUT Brown v. City of Pittsburgh

In 2005, the city of Pittsburgh enacted an ordinance restricting access to public areas surrounding abortion clinics. The ordinance unconstitutionally restricted the speech of Pittsburgh resident Mary Kathryn Brown, a pro-life nurse who seeks to provide counsel to women considering an abortion. Brown has never trespassed or blocked individuals from entering or leaving abortion facilities. Under the ordinance, individuals are prohibited from speaking (or even locating) in the sidewalk area within 15 feet from any entrance to abortion facilities. Moreover, within 100 feet of clinics, individuals must first obtain consent to approach a person closer than 8 feet away before they are permitted to distribute leaflets or handbills; display a sign; or engage in oral protest, education, or counseling.

CURRENT STATUS OF Brown v. City of Pittsburgh AS OF 01/28/09

In March 2006, ADF attorneys filed a lawsuit on behalf of Brown. In June 2006, ADF attorneys filed a motion for preliminary injunction on behalf of Brown in order to allow her to exercise her free speech rights while the case moved forward, but a judge denied the motion. ADF attorneys appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, and a hearing is scheduled for Jan. 29.

FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

The ordinance places unconstitutional free speech restrictions on pro-life advocates and severely limits their right to counsel women in public areas surrounding abortion clinics. The government cannot constitutionally kill the right to all free speech in any public area.

CONTACT

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ABOUT ADF

ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. Launched in 1994, ADF employs a unique combination of [strategy, training, funding, and litigation](#) to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family.

ABOUT David Cortman

David Cortman is senior legal counsel at the Alliance Defense Fund. He graduated magna cum laude from Regent University School of Law and is admitted to the bar in Georgia, Florida, and the District of Columbia. His notable media appearances include *Hannity and Colmes*, *Fox News*, *CNN Headline News*, *Court TV*, *MSNBC News with Brian Williams*, and *Glenn Beck*.