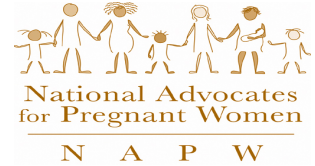


Real Answers to Misinformation Spread by Those Who Support Proposition 26



Will Proposition 26 be relied upon as a basis for the Arrest and Criminal Prosecution of Women who Suffer Miscarriages and Stillbirths? **Yes, it is more than likely that prosecutors and others will use it this way.**

In Mississippi and around the country, prosecutors already have been arresting, charging and prosecuting pregnant women who are unable to guarantee a healthy birth outcome. Good defense lawyers are sometimes able to get these cases thrown out of court. If Proposition 26 passes, however, their job will be much harder and innocent women could spend months or years in jail as their cases make their way through the court system.

Right [here in Mississippi](#), prosecutors have brought criminal charges against women who have suffered miscarriages and stillbirths. In one case, a teenager who suffered an unintentional stillbirth was charged with first-degree murder. Her case is pending and we hope it will be dismissed. If such arrests have been made without Proposition 26, imagine what will happen if it passes?

In Iowa, [Christine Taylor](#), a pregnant woman, fell down a flight of stairs. She called an ambulance because she was worried that she might have hurt the child she was carrying. Acting as if a law like Proposition 26 existed in Iowa, a nurse reported Ms. Taylor to the police. Ms. Taylor was arrested and charged with attempted fetal homicide. She spent two nights in jail—away from her two daughters—before police realized that no law yet authorized such an arrest or detention.

In Florida, [Samantha Burton](#) went to see her doctors late in her pregnancy. Her doctors thought she was risking a miscarriage and asked her to stay in the hospital. With two toddlers at home to care for, she refused. With a court order that assumed a law like Proposition 26 existed, the hospital held her prisoner, forcing her not only to stay in the hospital but also to submit to cesarean surgery. She lost the pregnancy despite these interventions. A court later said that what the hospital had done was wrong. But if Proposition 26 passes, it is even more likely that authorities would believe they have the authority to deprive pregnant women and their families from making decisions about pregnancy, birth and delivery.

A [pregnant woman in California](#) experienced a miscarriage at one-month gestation. Her doctor advised her to preserve the embryonic tissue in the freezer until she and her husband decided whether to request genetic testing or to take the remains to a mortuary. When they decided against testing, they called a mortuary. They were asked for a death certificate and were directed to the County Coroner to obtain one. The Coroner instructed them to call the police. When they complied, the police responded by descending on their home, entering without a warrant, and searching for what they assumed was the evidence of a crime against a person.

Families that experience miscarriages or stillbirths in Mississippi would have to expect such intrusions if Proposition 26 passes.

Vote NO on Proposition 26 – It Goes Too Far