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Father's Day is a Good day for Protesting Family Planning Clinics

Posted by Jim Newman on June 14th, 2014 – [Be the first to comment](#) – Posted in [Women's Rights](#)



Nearly everyone agrees the Westboro Baptist church is out there. Even many of the religious see it as extreme. Yet, protestors at Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics create a gauntlet of jeers, prayers, and singers sometimes every day. Many [attempting to get medical service](#) at these clinics have to deal with humiliation, intimidation, and harassment—there’s an incentive. They may just be going to the clinic for a check up. Can you see some young couple seeking advice or help in this environment? I bet a lot of kids would rather just risk it—hell, as a big, white, male adult I’d be intimidated.

[Protesters](#) at the edge of a buffer zone show what fun it is to get family planning aid. This group is the Catholic “Helpers of God’s Precious Infants.” Really makes you want to stay at home. While claiming they are peaceful protestors, too many employees remember Dr Tiller’s murder a few years ago. Now the ever-friendly bullet-proof glass greets you. It’s still [not safe](#).



“I don’t wear a bulletproof vest, but I never go outside in my scrubs – not ever. I feel like that’s just smart,” said Leah Torres, MD, OBGYN and reproductive health specialist. “Every time I walk into a Planned Parenthood clinic, I have to be wary of the reality. I can’t pretend that I’m in Salt Lake City and everything is hunky dory. There are crazy people everywhere.”

The list of people murdered [serves as warning](#).

Dr. George Tiller: May 31, 2009

Dr. Barnett Slepian: October 23, 1998

Security Guard Robert Sanderson: January 29, 1998

Receptionist Shannon Lowney: December 30, 1994

Receptionist Lee Ann Nichols: December 30, 1994

Dr. John Britton: July 29, 1994

Clinic Escort James Barrett: July 29, 1994

Dr. David Gunn: March 10, 1993

Creating buffer zones so protesters aren't literally in your face is [debated in courts](#). Protesting at clinics is like just something to do on the weekend—bring chips and salsa—heck, every day, all day, all night. Religious protesting is a lifestyle. And they say atheists are angry, militant, in your face?

Outside the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Boston on a recent winter day are the regulars — a small, devoted team of anti-abortion activists, handing out fliers and urging patrons to hear their message: “Save that child.” “Every life is precious, protect that life within you.” “Please change your mind.” Several people pray silently nearby.

Clearly marked on the sidewalk, nearly 12 yards from the front doors, is a painted boundary, a line the protesters cannot cross. By state law, their First Amendment rights stop there.

What fun for all.

With a large cross around her neck, the 77-year-old grandmother often uses a baby stroller as a prop, along with a portable DVD player with images of a fetal ultrasound. On a recent day, she was seen standing at the

edge of the yellow semicircle ringing the Boston clinic on Commonwealth Avenue.

In [Winter Park](#), Fl protesters thought it would be cool to go to the homes of employees and protest there. Just so employees won't forget their Christian love. The city created buffer zones, the police were confused, it went to court and the protestors lost. This story is repeating across the country.

Winter Park, Fla., passed the ordinance after 30 anti-abortion protesters lined up outside the home of Orlando Planned Parenthood CEO Jenna Tosh in August 2012 and would not leave until it began to rain.

They held signs with Tosh's name showing graphic images and phrases such as "baby killer." They shouted her name in between chants and songs.

Part of the ordinance passed the following month states: "It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to picket, protest or conduct any picketing or protesting activity within a buffer area of 50 feet from the property line of any dwelling unit in the city of Winter Park."

The judge got it right.

"The object of the ordinance is not to infringe on the free exercise of religion, and though it may impact religiously motivated protesters, it impacts all protesters the same,"

he added. “The object instead is the protection of the city’s residents in their homes from intrusive conduct, no matter the religious beliefs (or lack thereof) of the protesters outside.”

In addition to denying both a restraining order and an injunction, Dalton dismissed the complaint with prejudice.

“With Prejudice” sounds so sweet. The case cannot be retried.

Here’s a video of what a client would see on their way to the [EMW](#) clinic in Louisville Kentucky today, Father’s Day, 2014



What a great way to observe Father’s Day. But if you’re religious and you miss today there is always next Saturday, and [stay the night](#). Jerks everywhere claiming their business is your reproductive system.

But hey soon the problem will disappear as heinous laws are causing the loss of clinics everywhere. This will ensure only the rich will be able to do family planning. Go on a health vacation to another country! The rich have better children anyway, right?

If god wanted these women to be [saved](#) with proper medical care he'd do it.

The needless death of Savita Halappanavar last year, after a Catholic hospital refused to terminate her doomed pregnancy, drew a worldwide outpouring of fury against the religious dogmatism that killed her.

But as I wrote at the time, Savita's story was only the tip of the iceberg. What happened to her wasn't a fluke or an aberration: it was and is the official policy of the church that if a pregnant woman's life can be saved by abortion, it's better to let two die than to save one.

As hospitals merge the percent of them that are religion based is [increasing](#), from 16% in 2010 to ? in 2025. You have to be lucky and not live in the wrong area. In [Wisconsin](#) it is 30%. Often in rural areas there is [no choice](#) but to go to a religion-based hospital, with only their brand of care. Half of the OB/GYN staff at religion-based hospitals have issues with their demanded standards of care.

Is it any wonder that home-remedies, homeopathy, vitamins, diet, and just plain-ass staying sick and

hoping for the best is the new standard of care? Not to mention being publicly and privately intimidated for wanting to use birth control or have an abortion. Yep, the religious are so peaceful, charitable, and kind—unless you're a woman or a man trying to help a woman.

If I didn't live so far from a clinic I'd grab a cooler, some food and beverage, and do a counter sit-in, or [be an escort](#), but I can't afford the gas. Luckily, I had a vasectomy. That must be really frustrating to the prolife-misery folks.

Jim Newman, bright and well
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