

GENERAL ALERT: 'America This Week w/Eric Bolling'

Judge blocks Arkansas order banning elective abortions during pandemic

by Associated Press & Mandy Hrach
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LITTLE ROCK (AP & KATV) — A federal judge on Tuesday blocked Arkansas' order preventing the state's only surgical abortion clinic from performing the procedure during the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision came as health officials announced that at least 1,498 people in the state have been infected with the coronavirus, an increase over the 1,410 reported a day earlier. Two more people died because of the virus, bringing the state's death toll to 32.

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attorney, ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project. "As leading medical experts have recognized, Arkansas' and other states' attempts to prevent patients from accessing abortion care does nothing to protect people from the virus. It just stops people from getting essential care and forces them to continue their pregnancies against their will, which requires substantially more health care resources."

Family Council President Jerry Cox spoke with KATV after the decision, saying he believes this is a bad ruling and goes against standards for public health during the pandemic.

"They had people parking in the overflow parking, and there were a lot of people coming and going over there at the facility," he said. "That's just one example. If people gather in relatively large numbers inside a small building, I think most people here in Arkansas would say that's a problem, that's a health hazard." said Cox.

Many Arkansas officials reacted to the judge's decision Tuesday.

The attorney general's office said she would take "immediate steps" to have the ruling reversed.

"Attorney General Rutledge is extremely disappointed in today's decision to blatantly disregard good public health guidelines and temporarily halt the Health Department's directive without allowing the State to be heard," spokeswoman Amanda Priest said.

Lt Gov. Tim Griffin released the following statement:

"This ruling is wrong and undermines the public health and safety of Arkansans by allowing abortion clinics to openly flout Governor Hutchinson's directive regarding elective surgeries while thousands of other medical professionals are complying with the directive. I am pro-life, but abortion rights advocates describe the decision to abort as a 'choice.' That, by definition, means even they believe abortion procedures are elective."

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