



Facebook Post Exposes Trauma Inflicted by Abortion Pills

Every day, women suffer from the traumatic effects of the abortion pill as they are deceived by the abortion industry regarding the development of their pre-born baby. This firsthand account from a mother who took the pills illustrates this more clearly than ever. And it's happening here in Iowa. In 2023, 70% of abortions were drug-induced. As the pill becomes more accessible online, women are receiving these pills in the mail, only to administer them alone in their home, often without ever seeing a doctor. This occurs even where abortion is restricted. This is why we must fight to make abortion not only illegal, but unthinkable.

passed the embryo, and it had a heartbeat?

USA

I was 7 weeks, 3 days yesterday and took my second dose of pills (4 misoprostol dissolved in my cheek) around 4:30 pm. by 9 i had passed everything fairly painlessly, however, last night during the peak of the cramps at 6:30, i went to the restroom and before i could even sit down a fair amount of liquid poured out along with a small sac probably about the size of a small blueberry. it was mostly clear/white with a dark red spot in the middle that was very very clearly contracting like a heartbeat. it beat for probably 30-45 seconds then nothing and that literally shattered me, i have never felt this way and i feel so much regret. i dont even know how what i saw is possible and i cant find anyone talking about this happening. im so confused and feel unbelievably guilty.

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Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

September 2025

Monday, September 1	• Labor Day - DCRTL Office closed
Saturday, September 13	• National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children
Thursday, September 18	• Board of Directors meeting
Thursday, September 25	• Deadline to RSVP for the Equipped for Life Course
Thursday, September 25	• Holy Hour for Respect Life - 7pm St. John the Baptist Church, Peosta
Monday, September 29	• Equipped for Life Course, Week 1 DCRTL office 6-7:30pm

October 2025

Thursday, October 2	• Equipped for Life Course, Week 1 DCRTL Office 10-11:45am
Sunday, October 5	• Life Chain Sunday: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12:30-2pm in Dubuque• 3-4pm in Dyersville
October 6-8	• PLA Week • PLA Luncheon - TBD
Thursday, October 16	• Board of Directors meeting
Saturday, October 18	• Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Unborn - 11am - Mt. Olivet Cemetery at Memorial <i>(Note: the date has changed)</i>
Thursday, October 23	• Holy Hour for Respect Life - 7pm St. John the Baptist Church, Peosta

Praying outside of the abortion facility

Every Thursday morning, Arthur Gilloon and other DCRTL members carpool down to Iowa City to pray and offer life-affirming options to the mothers entering Emma Goldman abortion facility. They leave by 5:45am and return to Dubuque by 12 noon. They have open spots in the car. If you would like to join them on any Thursday, give our office a call (563-556-5960) by Wednesday (day before) at 4pm to sign-up.



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Equipping Ourselves for the Conversations That Change Culture

This past year, I had the privilege of attending the Braver Angels Conference. For those unfamiliar, Braver Angels is a national organization dedicated to bridging divides in our country by bringing people of different political and cultural perspectives together for civil dialogue. Their goal is to help people better understand one another, reduce hostility, and learn how to talk across divides.

One of the breakout sessions I attended at this conference was a debate on abortion. Participants could choose which breakout to join, and in this room, just over 100 people gathered. Volunteers alternated giving short speeches either for or against abortion. As you might expect, the topic was deeply personal and emotional.

The discussion remained civil, but I left with a heavy heart. What troubled me was how few pro-life voices were in the room—and how many of those who spoke lacked the training to defend their position clearly and persuasively to a secular audience. This wasn't a failure of conviction, but rather a reminder that we must be better equipped to share our views with others. I had to ask myself, how many more people might embrace the pro-life view if we could communicate it effectively?

That experience reminded me of two essential elements for changing culture: apologetics and conversations.

Apologetics simply means giving a defense for what we believe. These are the tools we need that are tested in real-life conversations and grounded in truth. Conversations are how we put those tools to work—meeting people where they are, listening, asking thoughtful questions, and offering a different perspective. One without the other is incomplete. Together, they are powerful.

That's why our apologetics trainings are so important. Whether this would be your first time joining us or your fifth, I urge you to come. We are always learning and improving our training to sharpen our effectiveness. This is the same training that led to 37.5% of the more than 300 people we spoke with at the County Fair reporting that they became more pro-life and more supportive of earlier restrictions on abortion.

The babies are depending on us. They deserve people who are willing to stand up and speak up for them with both courage and wisdom.

We have two upcoming training opportunities to learn these dialogue tools. Please see page six for details.

Let's commit ourselves this year not only to knowing the truth but also to speaking it in love, with skill and confidence. That combination is what changes hearts, changes culture, and ultimately makes abortion unthinkable.

For Life,
Augustine

P.S. History was made—and it happened right here in Iowa City. At just 21 weeks and 0 days, baby Nash was born weighing only 10 ounces. On July 5, he celebrated his first birthday, officially qualifying for recognition by the Guinness World Records. My wife, Molly, unexpectedly met Nash and his parents at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital when she and Luke were there for an appointment. Stories like Nash's remind us what is at stake and that every life is worth fighting for.



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John Smith.....	Dr. Virgil & Marian Bourek, Jim & Kathy Conlon, Ed & Mary Kluesner
Susan Walz.....	Ed Walz

When a gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one, an acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family you designate. With gifts of \$250 or greater, their name is engraved on our memorial plaque, displayed in our office. Simply send us, along with your gift, the name of the person you are honoring and the name and address of the family to whom you'd like the acknowledgement sent. We'll be happy to send a card.



THANK YOU!!

To Laura Dolehide, Sarah McDonald, Sue Lansing, Colleen Meyers, and Katie McGuire for helping in the office!

To all who volunteered at the Dubuque County Fair, helping us reach hundreds of community members with the pro-life message!

To Joel Glennon for donating garbage bags and water bottles!

To our members who travel down to Iowa City on Thursdays to pray outside the Emma Goldman Abortion Center!

Special Thanks to Darby Callahan

DCRTL wants to extend our deepest gratitude to Darby Callahan for his last three years of service on the Board of Directors! While Darby has prayerfully decided to resign and serve the community in new ways, we are grateful for his continued commitment to the pro-life cause and his hours of service in defense of life, including participating in our outreach events. We wish him the best and will always consider him a valuable member of our DCRTL community! Thank you, Darby!

Thank You to Mr. and Mrs. Darrah for their help in the Garden!

DCRTL thanks John and Cathy Darrah for their help in the garden and parkway outside our office! They have selflessly sacrificed their time and resources to make the exterior of our office beautiful and welcoming. We greatly appreciate their help and sacrifice. Thank you both for all you do to support DCRTL!

Thank you from Tala

Tala Lenz personally thanks all of the generous community members who donated diapers and baby wipes to Mary's Inn for her Junior Service Project! She excitedly shared that, because of you, she collected over 1,000 diapers and over 2,000 baby wipes! Tala explained that "Seeing the community come together and give this basic necessity to all the babies and mothers in need was such a heart-warming moment and such a beautiful blessing." Thank you everyone for your kind support of mothers and babies in our community!





PRO-LIFE LEGISLATIVE, COURT, AND OTHER LEGAL NEWS

by Arthur F. Gilloon, DCRTL Board Member & Attorney



Dear Friends for Life-

As Summer ends, here is some State and federal news from around the nation.

STATE NEWS

Iowa:

Commencing with the 2025–2026 school year, the human growth and development curriculum for grades 5 through 8 and the health curriculum for grades 9 through 12 must include presentation of an age-appropriate video or ultrasound showing the presence of vital organs in early fetal development and depicting:

“...the humanity of the unborn child by showing prenatal human development, starting at fertilization, noting significant markers in cell growth and organ development throughout every stage of pregnancy.”

This is the result of Senate File 175, the so-called “Baby Olivia Video“ Law, passed by the Iowa legislature last year. It simply requires the presentation of scientific fact regarding life before birth to all public school students in grades 5-8 and high school. If you have children or grandchildren in grades 5-12 in the public schools, be sure to ask them if they have seen such a video. If they haven’t, consider contacting their teachers to inquire when the video will be shown. You can read and copy Senate File 175 as signed by the Governor at:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20175&ga=91>

Indiana:

On August 11, 2025, the Indiana Court of Appeals upheld Indiana’s pro-life law, which protects unborn children from death and their mothers from harm. It allows abortion only when necessary to save the mother’s life or to prevent a serious health risk, when there is a lethal fetal anomaly, or when the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. The court of appeals ruled that Indiana’s pro-life law is constitutional. Further appeals to the Indiana Supreme Court are possible, so we will continue to follow this case.

Texas vs. New York:

As you may recall, Texas has made it illegal for other states to send the abortion death pills into Texas. Texas sued an abortionist from New York City, Dr. Margaret Daley Carpenter, who allegedly violated the law by mailing abortion pills to a Texas resident. Carpenter never appeared in Texas to defend herself, so a \$100,000.00 civil judgment was entered against her. Texas sent the judgment to New York, but the county clerk refused to file it, citing New York’s so-called “shield law,” which says New York does not need to honor a pro-life law from another state. So Texas has now sued the New York Ulster County Clerk to obtain a New York court order forcing the clerk to accept and file the \$100,000.00 judgment, which would make it enforceable against the abortionist in New York State. This case will wind its way through the New York state court legal system, and eventually may end up in front of the United States Supreme Court. Other pro-abortion states have laws like New York’s, so this scenario will play out around the country.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

The United States Supreme Court has agreed to review a case in which New Jersey’s Attorney General seeks to force a New Jersey faith-based pregnancy center to reveal 10 years of its internal, confidential documents, including the names of all donors.

It is a form of state-sponsored pro-abortion harassment by New Jersey, whose attorney general pleaded with the Supreme Court NOT to take the case.

PRO-LIFE COURT, LEGISLATIVE & OTHER LEGAL NEWS

....continued from page 5

First Choice Women's Resource Center is a pro-life pregnancy organization that provides parenting classes, free ultrasounds, baby clothes, and much more in five separate New Jersey locations. Its motto is "At First Choice, we believe each person has a right to get accurate information from a resource that will not profit from the choices and pregnancy decisions they make. First Choice Women's Resource Centers is an abortion clinic alternative that does not perform or refer for termination services."

This case could limit the ability of pro-abortion prosecutors to harass crisis pregnancy centers with baseless lawsuits, and it will further clarify how pro-life the U.S Supreme Court is in the aftermath of the 2022 Dobbs ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade. The fact that the Court is willing to review this state case out of New Jersey is a good sign. A decision hopefully will come on or before June 2026. We will be watching it closely, as the Supreme Court's decision could affect the thousands of pro-life pregnancy centers around the country.

That's all for now. Thanks for reading and staying informed! DCRTL will help you do just that.

Arthur F. Gilloon

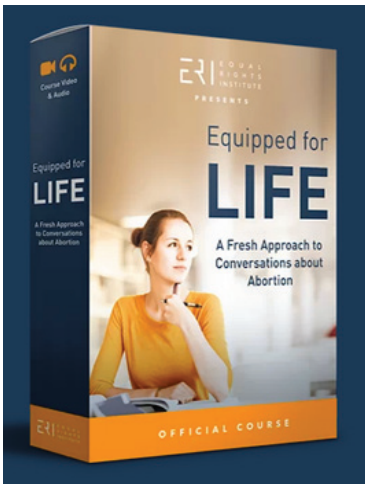


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EQUIPPED FOR LIFE COURSE



Don't forget to sign up for Dubuque County Right to Life's FREE offering of the Equipped for Life Course! As a reminder, the course will run every Monday night, beginning on September 29th through November 10th, from 6:00pm - 7:30pm (with dinner included). The SAME course will also run every Thursday morning, beginning October 2nd through November 13th, from 10:00am to 11:45am. Both courses will be offered in person at the DCRTL office.

This training will prepare you to answer any difficult question on abortion, effectively and compassionately! Topics we will cover include (but are not limited to): Habits of Highly Ineffective Pro-Lifers, Practical Dialogue Tips, Trot Out a Toddler, The Biological Case for the Unborn, The Philosophical Case for the Unborn, The Question of Rape, and Bodily Rights Arguments. Kids are welcome, so don't let that deter you! We hope to see you there!

If you plan on attending, please RSVP by September 25th. You can email Naomi Weiss at nweiss@dcrtl.org, or you can call her at the DCRTL office at 563-556-5960. The course is most effective with at least five participants, so remember each course will run only providing we have enough sign-ups. When you sign up, you will choose the day you want to attend (Monday nights or Thursday mornings).



**Remembrance Service
for the Unborn**
Date has changed

We wanted to inform you that we had to reschedule the prayer service for the unborn. While we still intend to honor and remember the unborn babies' lives lost through stillbirth, miscarriage, or abortion, we will now do so on **Saturday, October 18th at 11am. The service will still take place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery**, where we will gather to pray for the lives lost as well as for healing in the hearts of parents who grieve and mourn the loss of their child. Our potluck lunch will follow in the parish hall at St. Joseph parish in Key West. Please bring a dish to share! The doors to the parish hall will be open at 10:30am, so you can store your dish prior to the service if you wish. You are welcome to join us for all, or part, of this event as your schedule allows. We hope to see you there!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CEMETERY OF THE INNOCENTS
AT DIVINE WORD COLLEGE**

Saturday, September 27th - 9:00am

Are you free for 1-2 hours to help set up a cross display outside of Divine Word College? The Cemetery of the Innocents helps educate the community on the many lives lost to abortion since 1973. *A rain date is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th at 9am. If weather is in question, please email Augustine Payne at apayne@dctrl.org, and we will let you know if we are meeting.* Students looking for service projects are welcome to attend. We will meet in the main grassy area outside of Divine Word College.

Life Chain Sunday

Please join area pro-lifers on Sunday, October 5th at one of our local Life Chains. The Life Chain is a national peaceful, prayerful witness to our belief in the sanctity of all human life, with thousands of cities participating. We pray for the millions of victims of abortion and all women in unplanned pregnancies, that they receive the good help that they deserve. We will also pray for all public officials, and for a deeper respect for the ill, the handicapped, and the aged. You need not address anyone, just hold a sign with a message of your choosing. Signs will be provided.

We will witness in Dubuque from 12:30pm to 2pm, and we will witness in Dyersville from 3pm to 4pm. You are welcome to join us at one or both locations! See below for where to meet. We hope to see you there!

Dubuque: Highway 20 at Bluff Street (Proceed on Bluff St towards Rt 20 and you will come upon a little gravel lot on your right side where you will pull into to park. (Staff will arrive at 12pm so you should see others there already). For those who will plug it into their phones, it is directly across the street from 22 Bluff St, Dubuque, IA. Please call the office if you have questions.

Dyersville: Highway 136 at Beckman High School, 1325 9th St SE, Dyersville, IA 52040



AMBASSADORS FOR LIFE



Our Ambassadors for Life meetings have officially begun! We are so excited for another year of fighting for the dignity of the preborn through activism, formation, and activities to build community throughout the year. It's not too late for you to join us! Our group is for freshmen through seniors in high school. We meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month, from 6:15 to 7:45pm, with dinner provided. If you, or someone you know, is passionate about defending preborn lives and learning how to become an advocate for life in our community, email Naomi Weiss at nweiss@dcrtl.org for more details!

Auggie Shares Her County Fair Experience

(by August Christensen - DCRTL Board Member)

“At the Dubuque County Fair, I struck up a conversation with a young guy who, right from the start, told me he was 100% pro-choice through all nine months for any reason. Honestly, those are the kinds of conversations that make my heart beat a little faster—because I know God can do big things when we just step into them.

I began by walking him through the human rights argument, and to my surprise, he quickly agreed that human life begins at conception. Still, he wrestled with bodily autonomy, and the tough cases of rape/incest, and life of the mother. I gently walked him through the science and some analogies, and he nodded—admitting that the baby is indeed a distinct, whole, unique human being. But those exceptions still weighed heavily on him.

I first stopped to build common ground. From there, I was able to share more science, more analogies, and more real-life stories. He leaned in, listening carefully. He was so close to embracing a fully pro-life view, but still hesitant about outlawing abortion altogether.

Then I showed him some abortion victim imagery and explained the procedures. I could see it hit him—his heart was changing. By the end, he wasn't where I ultimately hoped, but he had moved so far from where he began. We ended by just chatting about life. I learned more about him, his story, and his family. I was even able to share the gospel with him!

If I weren't there working, we would've chatted all night! He also told me that I was one of the sweetest and most compassionate people he's ever met, and that I made him view the pro-life movement in a whole new light. He mentioned that he felt comfortable to share openly because it was a casual conversation, not a debate. Before leaving, he asked if he could give me a hug. And, of course, I love hugs!

That hug reminded me: this is why compassion matters. Sometimes the biggest impact isn't in winning an argument, but in showing someone they are heard, valued, and loved.”



Announcing our Pro-Life Awareness (PLA) Week Speaker!



Exciting news for our upcoming Pro-Life Awareness Week! This year, our speaker will be Serena Dyksen, author of *She Found His Grace*. Serena had an abortion experience at age 13 as a result of sexual assault. She will discuss her emotional journey, the twists and turns that followed, and ultimately, how she found healing.

Hear Serena share her journey, which you can in turn share with your family and friends as a story of hope to combat cultural lies about abortion. Serena will be in Dubuque, October 6th - 8th, to share her story with local schools and the community. Stay tuned for more details on when and where you can hear her story!

Many post-abortive parents experience anxiety and difficulty from their abortion experience. If you are struggling or need help, please contact our office (563-556-5960). We have people ready to help in any way possible!

Seven Weeks Coffee

Dubuque County Right To Life is partners with 7 Weeks Coffee, if you are already a coffee drinker, please consider switching your brand to Seven Weeks Coffee. 15% of all purchases will be donated to Dubuque County Right To Life. Thank you 7 Weeks Coffee! Use the following link www.sevenweekscoffee.com/?ref=Dubuque-County-Right-To-Life, or scan the QR Code below to be taken to our personal link.



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