



Stuart v. Camnitz, 774 F.3d 238 (4th Cir. 2014)

Topics Covered: Abortions

Outcome: Very Favorable

Issue

The issue in this case was whether a North Carolina law, which required that physicians who perform abortions display an ultrasound image of the fetus and describe the image in detail to the expectant mother, even over her objection, was constitutionally valid.

AMA Interest

The AMA opposes excessive governmental intrusion into the patient-physician relationship.

Case Summary

The district court enjoined the North Carolina law, finding that it compelled ideologically based speech and thus violated the First Amendment. The Fourth Circuit affirmed under an intermediate scrutiny standard. It found that, although the statute advanced an important interest in protecting fetal life, it did so in a manner that excessively intruded on the liberty interests of physicians and patients.

AMA Involvement

The AMA, along with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, filed an amicus brief to oppose the North Carolina law.

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit brief