

vision requiring the attending physician to exercise all care and diligence to preserve the life and health of the fetus without regard to the stage of viability was inconsistent with *Roe*.⁵⁸¹ The Court sustained provisions that required the woman's written consent to an abortion with assurances that it is informed and freely given, and the Court also upheld mandatory reporting and recordkeeping for public health purposes with adequate assurances of confidentiality. Another provision that barred the use of the most commonly used method of abortion after the first 12 weeks of pregnancy was declared unconstitutional because, in the absence of another comparably safe technique, it did not qualify as a reasonable protection of maternal health and it instead operated to deny the vast majority of abortions after the first 12 weeks.⁵⁸²

In other rulings applying *Roe*, the Court struck down some requirements and upheld others. A requirement that all abortions performed after the first trimester be performed in a hospital was invalidated as imposing "a heavy, and unnecessary, burden on women's access to a relatively inexpensive, otherwise accessible, and [at least during the first few weeks of the second trimester] safe abortion procedure."⁵⁸³ The Court held, however, that a state may require that abortions be performed in hospitals *or* licensed outpatient clinics, as long as licensing standards do not "depart from accepted medical practice."⁵⁸⁴ Various "informed consent" requirements were struck

hold that if parental consent is required the state must afford an expeditious access to court to review the parental determination and set it aside in appropriate cases. In *H. L. v. Matheson*, 450 U.S. 398 (1981), the Court upheld, as applied to an unemancipated minor living at home and dependent on her parents, a statute requiring a physician, "if possible," to notify the parents or guardians of a minor seeking an abortion. The decisions leave open a variety of questions, addressed by some concurring and dissenting Justices, dealing with when it would not be in the minor's best interest to avoid notifying her parents and with the alternatives to parental notification and consent. In two 1983 cases the Court applied the *Bellotti v. Baird* standard for determining whether judicial substitutes for parental consent requirements permit a pregnant minor to demonstrate that she is sufficiently mature to make her own decision on abortion. Compare *City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*, 462 U.S. 416 (1983) (no opportunity for case-by-case determinations); with *Planned Parenthood Ass'n v. Ashcroft*, 462 U.S. 476 (1983) (adequate individualized consideration).

⁵⁸¹ *Planned Parenthood v. Danforth*, 428 U.S. 52, 81–84 (1976). A law requiring a doctor, subject to penal sanction, to determine if a fetus is viable or may be viable and to take steps to preserve the life and health of viable fetuses was held to be unconstitutionally vague. *Colautti v. Franklin*, 439 U.S. 379 (1979).

⁵⁸² *Planned Parenthood v. Danforth*, 428 U.S. 52, 75–79 (1976).

⁵⁸³ *City of Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*, 462 U.S. 416, 438 (1983); *Accord*, *Planned Parenthood Ass'n v. Ashcroft*, 462 U.S. 476 (1983). The Court in *Akron* relied on evidence that "dilation and evacuation" (D&E) abortions performed in clinics cost less than half as much as hospital abortions, and that common use of the D&E procedure had "increased dramatically" the safety of second trimester abortions in the 10 years since *Roe v. Wade*. 462 U.S. at 435–36.

⁵⁸⁴ *Simopoulos v. Virginia*, 462 U.S. 506, 516 (1983).