**WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE CASE?**

In 1970, Jane Roe (a fictional name used in court documents to protect the plaintiff’s identity) filed a lawsuit against Henry Wade, the district attorney of Dallas County, Texas, where she resided, challenging a Texas law making abortion illegal except by a doctor’s orders to save a woman’s life. In her lawsuit, Roe alleged that the state laws were unconstitutionally vague and abridged her right of personal privacy, protected by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments.

**HOW DID THE SUPREME COURT RULE IN THE CASE?**

**It ruled that a state law that banned abortion was unconstitutional**. The ruling made abortion legal in many circumstances. The decision said that a woman's right to privacy extended to the fetus/unborn child she was carrying.

**NAME OF CASE**

Roe v. Wade

**YEAR OF CASE**

**1971-1972**

**INVOLVED (ex. people, states, amendments, laws)**

Jane Roe, Henry Wade, First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, Fifth Amendment, Ninth Amendment, Fourteenth Amendment

**WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE IN THIS CASE?**

Does the Constitution recognize a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy by abortion?