

The Satanic Temple Files New LawsUIT Challenging Texas Abortion Law

TST claims SB 8 violates Texas RFRA and U.S. Constitution by interfering with their religious rituals.

SALEM, MA — The Satanic Temple (TST) has announced it is bringing a new lawsuit seeking to undo the effects of the Texas legislature's anti-abortion legislation SB 8. According to TST's lawsuit, SB 8 violates both the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by obstructing The Satanic Temple's religious abortion ritual. Specifically, the legislation effectively blocks abortions after six weeks, so TST members cannot exercise an essential religious practice once that narrow window has passed.

"All we are asking for is the ability to exercise our right to religious liberty by participating in a ritual as part of our religion, free from government overreach," stated TST Director of Campaign Operations Erin Helian.

RFRA was originally passed to protect religions and religious practices by requiring government intervention to demonstrate a compelling interest in enforcing laws that interfere with religious practices. Both RFRA and the free exercise clause of the First Amendment protect the rights of The Satanic Temple members to engage in their religious abortion ritual up until 24 weeks.

"Lawmakers have been wise to protect the rights of religious groups, so there should be no objection when we use them," added Helian. "Freedom of religion goes for all religions and their rites and practices, not just the ones Texas lawmakers approve."

About The Satanic Temple

The Satanic Temple, the subject of the critically-acclaimed documentary, *Hail Satan?*, and the academic analysis of modern Satanism, *Speak of the Devil*, confronts religious discrimination to secure the separation of church and state and defend the Constitutional rights of its members. In response to Oklahoma and Arkansas placing a Ten Commandments statue on Capitol grounds, TST offered its bronze Baphomet statue to stand alongside the Christian monuments. TST hosts the "After School Satan" club to counter the Evangelical "Good News Clubs" in public schools to promote a plurality of religious viewpoints. The mission of The Satanic Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense, oppose injustice, and undertake noble pursuits for the individual will. For more information about The Satanic Temple, visit <https://thesatanictemple.com/>.

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