

## **The Satanic Temple Files Lawsuit In Texas Against Abortion Restrictions That Impede Abortion Ritual**

*The Satanic Temple argues that their Abortion Ritual is unduly burdened by Texas abortion restrictions*

The Satanic Temple (TST), a [federally-recognized](#), tax-exempt non-theistic Church [with chapters](#) that span the globe, filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas Houston Division alleging that certain state-mandated abortion restrictions violate the religious liberty of their adherents. On behalf of Temple member "Ann Doe", TST is suing the state for imposing medically unnecessary abortion regulations including a sonogram, a forced decision about whether to see the sonogram results, the forced listening to a narrative of the sonogram results, and a mandatory waiting period between the sonogram and the abortion.

As a tenet of their religious faith, TST believes that "the body is inviolable, subject to one's own will alone," with an understanding that the non-viable fetus is "tissue," a part of the carrier's body. The Satanists' religious liberty claim is founded on their "[Abortion Ritual](#)," a ceremonious affirmation of religious adherence and bodily autonomy that culminates in the abortive act.

Prior to filing the lawsuit, TST's attorney sent a letter on behalf of Ann Doe to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission which demanded an exemption from the abortion restrictions. TST's attorney explained: "The abortion ritual (1) requires an abortion; and (2) affirms her religious subscription to TST's Third and Fifth Tenets. But before Ms. Doe can get her abortion—and therefore participate in the abortion ritual—the government has required that she get a sonogram." The letter drew battle lines for the upcoming litigation, pointedly stating, "The requirements substantially interfere with Ms. Doe's religious beliefs and practices for two reasons. First, the requirements are a precondition to Ms. Doe's ability to participate in a religious ceremony. It is a substantial interference per se for the State to place a regulatory hurdle—one that costs money—in front of a religious exercise. The State might as well tax and regulate Mass."

According to TST spokesperson, Lucien Greaves, "I am sure Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton -- who famously spends a good deal of his time composing press releases about Religious Liberty issues in other states -- will be proud to see that Texas's robust Religious Liberty laws, which he so vociferously champions, will prevent future Abortion Rituals from being interrupted by superfluous government restrictions meant only to shame and harass those seeking an abortion."

### **About The Satanic Temple**

The Satanic Temple, subject of the critically-acclaimed documentary, *Hail Satan?*, and the book, *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 across the country 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/>.