



AAF: Promote IVF Practices That Respect Life

TOPLINE: Life begins at conception. The law must recognize that millions of Americans are alive today due to IVF, and that embryos created via IVF should be afforded legal protection.

BACKGROUND: In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) is a reproductive technology in which sperm and egg are joined outside of the body to create an embryo, which is then implanted in the mother's womb.

- The first successful human use of IVF was in 1978.
- Today, IVF accounts for about two percent of all live births in the United States.

IVF's Moral Conundrum: IVF can easily become morally fraught.

- It often results in the creation of frozen human beings, and those that are not implanted remain frozen for an indefinite period (there are currently about [one million](#) in existence domestically).
- Often, a doctor will create a dozen or more embryos and, if multiple implant, perform a "reduction" in which successfully implanted embryos are aborted to reach the desired number.
- It can also be used to pursue a specific genetic result, e.g. a boy rather than a girl, or "screening" for abnormalities, resulting in the destruction or indefinite freezing of the unwanted child.

IVF must be pursued responsibly: The United States is largely out of line with the rest of the world.

- American law permits an unlimited number of embryos to be created.
- However, Europe practices IVF more responsibly.
 - **For example:** Germany only allows three embryos to be created at a time, while France and Sweden only allow two.
- Unused frozen embryos should be protected and offered up for embryonic adoption.
- Embryonic stem cell research has not resulted in a single therapy; adult stem cell research has.
 - **Dig Deeper:** [2001 Congressional hearing featuring snowflake babies.](#)

Alabama did not ban IVF:

- Earlier this year, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that a clinic that did not provide adequate protection for embryos, resulting in the death of several embryonic children, was civilly liable for the wrongful death of the children.
- The case recognized that embryos are unborn human beings and deserve to be handled with care.
- **Read: Dr. Ryan Anderson: [The Truth About Alabama's Ruling on IVF](#)**

BOTTOM LINE: Life begins at conception, and our laws should reflect this.

- Republicans should never shy away from defending life.
 - **Watch:** V.P. Pence [addresses](#) IVF on Face The Nation (March 17, 2024)
- IVF has allowed millions of Americans to be born.
- Unfortunately, the failure of some IVF clinics to treat human embryos with dignity has resulted in heartbreak for families, as embryos are carelessly stored and destroyed.
- These unborn children and their families deserve better safeguards.

Additional Reading:

- Emma Waters: [Babies Aren't Disposable, At Any Stage](#) & [How Christians Should Assess Reproductive Technology](#)
- Dr. Robert George: [The Sanctity of Life, Even in a Test Tube](#)

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