

Court: Hobby Lobby Must Violate Faith, Pay for Abortion Pills

A federal court on Monday denied a request to halt enforcement of the abortion pill mandate which forces the Christian-owned-and-operated **Hobby Lobby**, to provide the “**morning after pill**” and “week after pill” in their health insurance plan, or face crippling fines up to \$1.3 million dollars per day.

“We disagree with this decision and we will immediately appeal it,” says Kyle Duncan, General Counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. “Every American, including family business owners like the Greens, should be free to live and do business according to their religious beliefs. The Green family needs relief now and we will seek it immediately from the federal appeals court in Denver.”

The court did not question that the Green family has sincere **religious beliefs** forbidding them from participating in **abortion**. The court ruled, however, that those beliefs were only “indirectly” burdened by the mandate’s requirement that they provide free coverage for specific, **abortion-inducing drugs** in Hobby Lobby’s self-funded insurance plan.

Founded in an Oklahoma City garage in 1972, the Green family has grown Hobby Lobby from one 300-square-foot retail space into more than 500 stores in 41 states.

“It is by God’s grace and provision that Hobby Lobby has endured,” said David Green, Founder and CEO. “Therefore we seek to honor God by operating the company in a manner consistent with **biblical principles**.”

Hobby Lobby is the largest and only non-Catholic-owned business to file a lawsuit against the HHS mandate. The Green

family has no moral objection to the use of preventive contraceptives and will continue covering preventive contraceptives for its employees. However, the Green family's **religious convictions** prohibit them from providing or paying for the abortion-inducing drugs, the "morning after" and "week after" pills, which would violate their most deeply held religious belief that life begins at conception.

The business's lawsuit acts to preserve its right to carry out its mission free from government coercion.

There are now 40 separate lawsuits challenging the HHS mandate, which is a regulation under the Affordable Care Act (aka "Obamacare"). The Becket Fund led the charge against the unconstitutional HHS mandate, and along with Hobby Lobby represents: Wheaton College, Belmont Abbey College, Colorado Christian University, the Eternal Word Television Network, and Ave Maria University.