

Human Life Begins at Conception, Federal Court Rules

A federal court on Friday handed down an order that temporarily suspends a provision of an Indiana law that defunds abortionist organizations like Planned Parenthood. That's the bad news.

The good news is the order also upheld a key provision that requires women to be informed that "human physical life begins when a human ovum is fertilized by a human sperm."

Specifically, the order explained that "the language crafted by the legislature in this provision supports a finding that the mandated statement refers exclusively to a growing organism that is a member of the Homo sapiens species."

"No one should be allowed to decide that an innocent life is worthless. Abortionists have done this by telling women that a pre-born baby is just a batch of cells instead of what he or she actually is: a human being. This law ends that deception in Indiana," says Alliance Defense Fund Senior Counsel Steven H. Aden. "All the court did was recognize the indisputable fact that a biological human life begins at conception. It is false to say anything else."

The court also disagreed with Planned Parenthood's argument that the statement is "misleading."

"Here, the mandated statement states only a biological fact relating to the development of the living organism; therefore, it may be reasonably read to provide accurate, non-misleading information to the patient," the court wrote. "Under Indiana law, a physician must disclose the facts and risks of a treatment which a reasonably prudent physician would be

expected to disclose under like circumstances, and which a reasonable person would want to know.”

The injunction against the defunding provision issued in *Planned Parenthood of Indiana v. Commissioner of the Indiana State Department of Health* is likely to be appealed. In April, ADF sent a letter to Gov. Mitch Daniels in defense of that provision.