



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Are Frozen Embryos Property?



Education: In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) is big business. It has become the method of choice to help infertile women to attain motherhood. It is the method of choice not because it is the most effective; NaProTechnology is more successful, usually at a greatly reduced cost. IVF is expensive, and is a means for clinics to make a great deal of money. However, in the process of trying to produce a child, several other very young human beings either die, are discarded, or are frozen indefinitely. Over a million human

embryos are currently in frozen storage, as “extra” products not used. It was estimated in 2010 that only 7.5% of embryos created survive to be born. (1) Current practices to more often implant only one or two embryos may have changed that number.

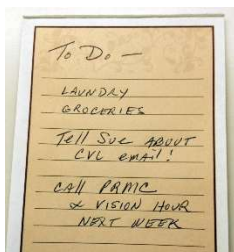
A law suit was begun in 2021 in Virginia, in which a divorced woman wanted to implant in her womb two frozen embryos, created by IVF when they were married. They had agreed that they would “own jointly” any stored embryos. (2) At the time of the divorce, they agreed (under the heading of “Division of Personal Property”) that the couple would share the cost of storage until determined otherwise.

The judge issued a preliminary ruling in 2023 that since he could find no law forbidding the purchase or sale of human embryos, and that they could be considered property, “within the meaning of “ a law from the 1800’s which included slaves as property. (3) On March 7, 2025, a new judge ruled that there was no precedent for treating embryos as property, and he questioned the ethics and practicality of assigning value to embryos in legal disputes (4)

1. [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-fertility/conception-is-a-rare-event-fertility-study-shows-idUSTRE69O50T20\(3\)101025](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-fertility/conception-is-a-rare-event-fertility-study-shows-idUSTRE69O50T20(3)101025)
2. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/sites/circuit/files/assets/documents/pdf/opinions/cl-2021-15372-honeyhline-heidemann-v-jason-heidemann.pdf>
3. [Virginia Judge to Decide Whether State Law Considers Embryos as Property \(usnews.com\)](https://www.usnews.com/story/news/health/2023/03/07/virginia-judge-to-decide-whether-state-law-considers-embryos-as-property)
4. [Frozen embryos are not property, judge rules](https://www.usnews.com/story/news/health/2023/03/07/virginia-judge-to-decide-whether-state-law-considers-embryos-as-property)



Prayer: Dear Father God, please help everyone to realize that babies are not products to be manufactured, with less than perfect “extras” to be discarded, but gifts from you. Once an egg and sperm have united, a new human exists and deserves to be treated with respect, not discarded or frozen, or placed in a situation where his or her survival is at risk. Help the recent rejection of Roe v. Wade to help more Americans to also reject any definition of embryos as property. Please lead couples struggling with infertility to trust in You to provide them with children, if that is your will for them. Help them to learn about NaproTechnology (5) as an alternative approach, or consider adoption as loving way to build their family.



Action: If you have friends that are struggling with infertility, talk to them about IVF and the moral issues involved. Tell them about NaproTechnology (4), which has better results than IVF, but works with the natural reproductive system rather than replacing natural reproduction with an alternative method. Ask them to pray about it before deciding, and perhaps consider adoption as another alternative.

5. <https://naprotechnology.com/>