



Concerned Women for America of Illinois presents: Stem Cell Fact of the Day #1

"Philosophers and theologians may debate, but there is no doubt in the mind of the Illinois Legislature when life begins. It begins at conception."

~ Cook County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey Lawrence, ruling February 4 that the parents of a frozen embryo destroyed by a Chicago fertility clinic may sue for wrongful death.

Embryos in clinics ruled as 'human'

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By Rob Olmstead, Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Cook County Circuit Court Judge has ruled that the parents of un-implanted embryos can sue their fertility clinic under the Wrongful Death Act after the clinic accidentally destroyed the embryos.

In an 11-page opinion, Judge Jeffrey Lawrence ruled Friday that "a pre-embryo (a fertilized egg that hasn't yet been implanted) is a 'human being' within the ... Wrongful Death Act and that a claim lies for its wrongful destruction whether or not it is implanted in its mother's womb."

Lawrence made his ruling, he said, based on Illinois abortion law and the state's Wrongful Death Act.

"Philosophers and theologians may debate, but there is no doubt in the mind of the Illinois legislature when life begins. It begins at conception," Lawrence wrote.

One legal expert on in vitro fertilization said he thought the ruling was narrowly tailored enough that it would not have much of an effect on abortion law, but that it would be huge for the burgeoning in vitro industry....

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CWA endorses adult and umbilical cord stem cell research but condemns embryonic stem cell research as immoral.

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