

US woman loses battle to keep frozen embryos

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A California judge on Wednesday ruled against a woman locked in a bitter dispute with her ex-husband to use frozen embryos over his objections, in a closely watched case.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Anne-Christine Massullo based her decision on an agreement Mimi Lee and Stephen Findley signed at a fertility clinic in 2010, when Lee was diagnosed with cancer.

The document stipulated that five [embryos](#) the couple decided to cryogenically freeze to preserve their chance to have children would be thawed and destroyed in the event of divorce.

"It is a disturbing consequence of modern biological technology that the fate of the nascent human life, which the embryos in this case represent, must be determined in a court by reference to cold legal principles," the judge wrote.

The case has been watched with interest in the United States as a test of the fate of [frozen embryos](#) in divorce cases.

Lee, a 46-year-old pianist and part-time anesthesiologist, unsuccessfully argued that the embryos were her last chance at having biological children because she was left infertile following treatment for breast cancer.

Her ex-husband, an investment executive, however insisted that the

consent agreement the couple signed was clear and legally binding.

The couple have been embroiled in a bitter legal battle over the embryos since their divorce in 2013. The judge's ruling can be appealed.

Attorneys representing Lee and Findley could not be immediately reached for comment.

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