

Minnesota trial focuses on pharmacist who refused to provide morning-after pill

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A Minnesota jury is expected to decide by the end of this week whether

a woman's human rights were violated when a pharmacist denied her request to fill a prescription for emergency contraception, sometimes called the [morning-after pill](#).

Though the case dates back to 2019, the issue is at the center of political debate in the United States ever since the U.S. Supreme Court [removed](#) a woman's constitutional right to an abortion in June. Concerns about whether contraception rights might also be limited by the conservative court in the future prompted the U.S. House of Representatives last week to pass a bill to guarantee the right.

In Minnesota, Andrea Anderson sued pharmacist George Badeaux under the state's [Human Rights Act](#), *CBS News* reported. Minnesota law prohibits discrimination based on sex. This includes issues related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Anderson had tried to fill her prescription for the morning-after pill in January 2019 at the Thrifty White pharmacy in the small city of McGregor, the [Star Tribune](#) reported. Badeaux told her he could not fill it because of his religious beliefs, but that she could fill it the next day with another pharmacist if a snowstorm didn't stop that [pharmacist](#) from getting to work.

The mother of five then drove 100 miles roundtrip in wintry weather to fill her prescription in Brainerd, Minn.

Badeaux can explain his [religious beliefs](#) to the jury, "but not in such a manner as to confuse the jury into thinking this is a religious freedom contest," according to a judge's ruling in the case.

He cannot raise federal constitutional issues such as freedom of religion because the case is filed under the state's Human Rights Act, said Aitkin County District Judge David Hermerding, *CBS News* reported.

"The issue for the jury is not [the] defendant's constitutional rights," the judge wrote. "It is whether he deliberately misled, obfuscated and blocked Ms. Anderson's path to obtaining" [emergency contraception](#).

Meanwhile, pharmaceutical company HRA Pharma is the first in the United States to ask for permission to sell its [birth control](#) over the counter, *CBS News* reported. The company said the timing was not related to the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

More information: The Office on Women's Health has more on [emergency contraception](#).

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