



(U//LES) Abortion Extremism Reference Guide for Law Enforcement

4 January 2017

(U) Abortion Extremism Ideology

(U//LES) Both pro-life and pro-choice abortion extremists engage in criminal activity and seek to further their ideology, wholly or in part through force or violence. The primary threat of violence from abortion extremists emanates from lone offenders.

(U) **Pro-life extremists** claim moral legitimacy, admire and are inspired by other pro-life extremists, and justify their use of force or violence as necessary to save the life of the unborn. Their actions cause injury or death to healthcare providers, economic harm to reproductive health care facilities (RHCFs), or intimidation of RHCF staff and patients.

(U//LES) **Pro-choice extremists** believe it is their moral duty to protect those who provide or receive abortion services.

(U//LES) Pro-choice extremism is not considered a movement to the extent of pro-life extremism. Only one pro-choice extremist has been prosecuted, and that person acted independently and without any direct affiliation to a pro-choice group.

(U//LES) Significant Anniversaries for Pro-Life Extremists

22 January

- Anniversary of *Roe v Wade* (1973)

3 September

- Anniversary of Paul Hill execution for killing RHCF doctor and clinic escort (2003)

25 December

- The birth of Jesus Christ

26 May

- FACE Act signed into law (1994)^a

11 November

- Remember the Unborn Children Day

Other Dates of Interest

Lenten Season

Easter

White Rose Banquet: Honors incarcerated pro-life extremists (Usually held around *Roe v Wade* anniversary in January. Last Banquet held in 2005).

Summer of Mercy: 45 days in 1991 when thousands of pro-life activists and extremists gathered in Wichita, Kansas, to protest three abortion clinics and a late-term abortion provider operating in the state. (A pro-life lone offender killed this abortion provider in 2009).

Summer of Mercy 2.0: Pro-life event in 2011 celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Summer of Mercy. Focused on late-term abortion provider in Germantown, Maryland.

^a: The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance (FACE) Act is a federal law designed to protect both those providing and those receiving reproductive health care services. The act forbids the use of force, threat of force, or physical obstruction against service providers, staff, and facilities.

(U) Sources: FBI, *Abortion Extremism: A Primer* (January 2014). This document derives from multiple sources of information collected by the FBI.

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(U//LES) Catalysts and Characteristics

(U) Individual indicators of abortion extremism may comprise lawful conduct or criminal activity. No single indicator from the following lists should serve as the sole basis for a determination of abortion extremism activity.

- (U//LES) Catalysts that may lead to an increase in pro-life extremism include:
 - (U//LES) Changes in political power, legislative acts, or judicial decisions related to the abortion debate;
 - (U//LES) Changes in access to abortion;
 - (U//LES) Documentaries or videos centered on abortion.
- (U//LES) Characteristics of pro-life extremism include:
 - (U//LES) Admiration of other pro-life extremists;
 - (U//LES) Belief that one's actions are mandated by God, thus justifying the use of violence;
 - (U//LES) Willing to use lethal violence take a life to 'save the unborn'.
- (U//LES) Catalysts which may lead to an increase in pro-choice extremism include:
 - (U//LES) Criminal activity or violent rhetoric targeting RHCFs, or pro-choice individuals or organizations;
 - (U//LES) Restricted access to abortion services.
- (U//LES) Characteristics of pro-choice extremism include:
 - (U//LES) Belief in a moral duty to protect those who provide and receive abortion services.