

PREGNANT WOMEN

AND

PERSONHOOD LAWS

Roll over each state to see the legal ramifications of the case.

Laci Peterson



The murder of Laci Peterson while she was pregnant by her husband Scott Peterson spurred the passing of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004. (CA, 2004)

Amanda Kimbrough



After the death of her third child born prematurely, Amanda Kimbrough was arrested and lost custody of her two daughters. She was charged with chemical endangerment of a child, and sentenced to ten years in jail. (AL, 2008)

Bei Bei



Bei Bei Shuai attempted suicide while 8 months pregnant by ingesting rat poison. She was prosecuted for murder and attempted feticide. (IN, 2011)

Purvi Patel



Purvi Patel was the first woman to be sentenced under Indiana's feticide laws after going to the emergency room due to a miscarriage. Patel stated that the baby was stillborn, while prosecutors argued that there had been a live birth. (IN, 2013)

Alicia Bel-



At 12 weeks pregnant, Alicia Beltran was jailed for alleged drug abuse. Due to a previous dependency on Percocet and self-administering Suboxone (a drug used to treat dependency), she was arrested and sentenced to 90 days in a drug treatment center. (WI, 2013)

Kenlissia Jones

Kenlissia Jones gave birth at 5 and a half months pregnant after taking an abortion pill she ordered online. Jones was charged with murder and possession of dangerous drugs, but the charge of murder was eventually dismissed. (GA, 2015)



To date, over 650 women have been prosecuted in the United States for charges related to fetal personhood, which seeks to attribute rights separate from the mother to fetuses. Fetal personhood has been legalized to varying extents in 39 states, with new bills being introduced every year.



Fayzah Al-Khatib

Fayzah Al-Khatib hid her stillborn baby in the freezer due to fear of her family's reaction. She has been charged with obstruction of justice and failure to report a dead body. Her trial is scheduled to begin in 2017. (IN, 2017)

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