



# What Should the Penalty Be?

Update from Jacob Burow - October 2011



## ***“If abortion were illegal, what would the penalty be?”***

In a YouTube video made by a pro-choice advocate (see caption below), pro-life activists outside of an abortion clinic in Libertyville, Illinois were asked what the penalty should be for women who have abortions if abortion were illegal.

“Things that are illegal usually have a punishment. What should the punishment be for abortion?” the reporter asked.

The video showed the responses of seven pro-life activists, and **none of them had a ready answer** for the question. Some just said they had no comment.

Intrigued, I began showing the video to many of my friends and asking them what they thought. Only one was able to answer without hesitation. I wonder, are we ready to answer this tough question?



I think this girl had the best response. Although she had not considered everything, she thoughtfully responded, **“It depends.”**

To watch, search “Libertyville Abortion Demonstration” on YouTube.

I have had to wrestle with the question myself, so I want to share my thoughts with you, and I hope the discussion will help you prepare to give an answer.

I would begin with the assumption that the unborn are

living humans. The definition of homicide is the taking of a human life, so abortion falls under the classification of homicide. I would therefore ask, “In the case of an abortion, what were the circumstances, and who was involved in the homicide?” There may be multiple parties involved with differing degrees of responsibility. For example, consider a fourteen-year-old girl whose father has forced her to have an abortion.

So it seems that the answer to the question of what the penalty would be is, **“It depends.”**

As is the case with any homicide, the penalty varies with different intentions, motives, and degrees of involvement. Determining the appropriate punishment requires lawyers to gather evidence and evaluate that evidence at trial.

We can discuss whether or not homicide in its various forms is being punished adequately, but my answer to the abortion question is simply that **we do not need special laws to punish the guilty parties involved in abortion**. If abortion is homicide, then it should be prosecuted as such. As always, we want to punish the appropriate parties, which may or may not include the mother.

The natural question that will follow is “What do we propose to do for all of the mothers who really cannot afford to keep their children?” We will do what we have always done: we will help them.

I hope that in time, young men and women will choose not to put themselves in a situation where they would want to have an abortion. In the meantime, we must be prepared to help them understand why abortion is homicide and why it should become a crime again, with punishments being determined by courts of law.

Thanks for your financial support and support through prayer. I have gained several new supporters, and I am closer to reaching my goal.

Many blessings in Christ,

*Jacob Burow*

**RESULTS OF MY SUPPORT RAISING EFFORTS TO DATE**

**I have reached 76% of my goal.**

**91 families have partnered with me in this ministry. Praise God!**