

# roe timeline

1945



**Sarah (Ragle) Weddington is born in Abilene, TX** to a Methodist minister and a college business professor.

1947

**Norma (Nelson) McCorvey is born in Simmesport, LA** to an Army private and a waitress who divorced when she was 13.



1963

**Norma (Nelson) McCorvey drops out of high school.**

1964

**Sarah (Ragle) Weddington graduates magna cum laude from McMurry College.**

**17-year old Norma marries 24-year-old Woody McCorvey,** a twice-divorced sheet-metal worker she had known for six weeks.

**Association to Repeal Abortion Laws is founded** (later NARAL - National Abortion Rights Action League).

1965

**Norma McCorvey divorces husband Woody and gives birth to Melissa,** raised by her mother Mary.

1967

**Sarah graduates with her law degree** from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Norma gives birth to Jennifer, placed for adoption.** She has never revealed the father publicly.

1969

**At 22, Norma is pregnant for a third time, now with the child who would become the "Roe baby."** She has never revealed the father publicly.

1970

**A pregnant Norma McCorvey meets Sarah Weddington at a Dallas pizza parlor and agrees to be the plaintiff Roe,** challenging the abortion laws in Texas. Attorneys Weddington and Linda Coffee,



Coffee

then preparing to contest Texas' highly restrictive law regarding abortion, were looking for a plaintiff who wanted to terminate her pregnancy. She used the alias "Jane Roe." Before the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court, McCorvey gave birth to the child, which she placed for adoption. She never had

an abortion.

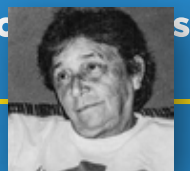
**U.S. Federal District Court in Dallas finds Texas abortion laws unconstitutional.**

The state of Texas appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**June 2: Norma McCorvey gives**

**birth to Shelley Lynn Thornton,** adopted by Ruth and Billy Thornton and raised in Dallas. Thornton would not be identified as the "Roe baby" until September of 2021 through the investigative journalism of Joshua Prager.

**September: Norma McCorvey gives birth to Melissa.**



Gonzalez

December 13, 1971

**Appeal of Roe v. Wade is argued at the U.S. Supreme Court.**



Sarah Weddington with husband Ron Weddington, Texas Congressman Mahon and her mother on the day she argued the case at the Supreme court at 26 year old.

January 22, 1973

**In a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court rules that women have a constitutional right to an abortion.**

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1973

**Norma McCorvey reveals she is “Jane Roe.”** McCorvey’s identity as Roe was revealed by the *Associated Press* immediately following the Supreme Court’s 1973 decision, though it did not become more widely known until 1980, when she granted an interview to a Dallas TV newscaster.

1976

**Hyde Amendment first introduced into congressional annual spending bills.** The Hyde Amendment prohibits federal funds from covering abortion services for people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).



1986

**Operation Rescue, an anti-abortion group, is founded with Flip Benham as its leader.**

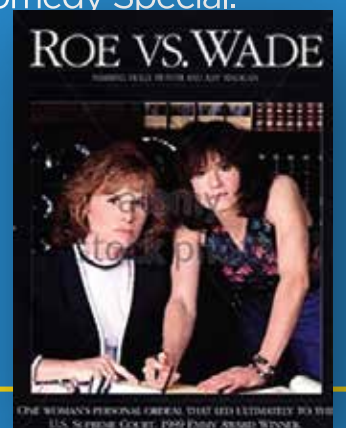


**Webster v. Reproductive Health Services:** The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a Missouri law regulating abortion care that prohibited the use of public facilities, employees, or funds to provide abortion counseling or services.

**April: Norma is invited to a massive pro-choice rally in Washington** protesting *Webster*. She meets prominent feminists and Gloria Allred who becomes a prominent figure in her life, bringing her to Los Angeles and introducing her to a wider world.

**May: *Roe vs. Wade*** with Holly Hunter airs on NBC while the Supreme Court debates *Webster*. Holly Hunter plays McCorvey in the film. Producer Michael Manneheim creates it over four years in Los Angeles. The movie goes on to win Emmys for Hunter and Drama or Comedy Special.

1989



1992

**Norma and Connie begin working in abortion clinics in Dallas.**

**Planned Parenthood v. Casey:** U.S. Supreme Court finds Pennsylvania law that required spousal awareness prior to obtaining an abortion was invalid under the Fourteenth Amendment. Roe is affirmed, but the determination of viability of the fetus and

1994

**Publication of Norma’s first memoir, *I Am Roe: My Life, Roe v. Wade and Freedom of Choice***

1995

**Operation Rescue moves in next door to an abortion clinic where Norma McCorvey is working as marketing director.**

1998

**Publication of McCorvey’s second memoir, *Won by Love*.**

2009

**Norma leaves Connie, five years after Connie’s stroke.**

2013

**Hyde Amendment Codification Act:** Prohibits the expenditure for any abortion of funds authorized or appropriated by federal law or funds in any trust fund to which funds are authorized or appropriated by federal law. Prohibits the use of federal funds for any health benefits coverage that includes abortion.

2015

**Connie Gonzalez dies.**

2017

**Norma McCorvey dies of heart failure at age 69** in an assisted living facility in Katy, Texas.

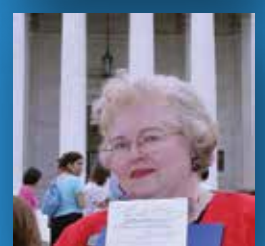


2020

**AKA Jane Roe documentary is released with Norma’s confession of her true beliefs about abortion.**

2021

**Sarah Weddington dies at age 76.**



MAY 2022

**Leak of draft opinion by Samuel Alito, stating that SCOTUS will overturn *Roe v. Wade*.**