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## **Artificial Intelligence Investigates the Issue of Abortion**

***By***

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**Abstract:** This study uses DeepSeek, an artificial intelligence assistant, to examine the issue of abortion. The study begins with a summary of the absolutist position that abortion is murder, then proceeds to give DeepSeek a series of instructions to analyze each major component of the absolutist position. It proceeds to write a series of short essays on each point that take a neutral position, giving surprisingly informative and thorough analyses of the various sub issues and nuances. One structural flaw that DeepSeek possesses is the inability to cite relevant references, making it necessary for researchers who use DeepSeek to perform due diligence and find sources on their own. This study concludes that scholars may find Deep Seek to be a useful tool for their own research, as it can provide a good starting point to identify issues, sub issues and possible arguments and positions that may be adopted regardless of the researcher's own position on an issue.

**Keywords:** abortion, DeepSeek, artificial intelligence, negligence, rape, incest, academic research

## Introduction

The absolutist position on abortion is that it is always murder, with the possible exception of the case where the mother's life is at risk. The logic goes something like this:

- Life begins at conception.
- The unborn child acquires rights at the point of conception, including the right to life (the right not to be killed).
- Terminating the life of the unborn child is therefore homicide.
- The homicide is not justifiable.
- Since it is not justifiable, terminating the human life is either manslaughter or murder.
- Since the act of terminating the life is premeditated, it is murder, not manslaughter.
- The fact that the life might have been created as a result of rape or incest is irrelevant, since all humans possess the right to life.
- Many unwanted pregnancies are the result of negligence (failure to use birth control), and negligence does not justify terminating a human life.

## Methodology

I wanted to see what artificial intelligence had to say on the matter. I decided to use DeepSeek rather than any of the other AI assistants because past experience indicated that it writes better essays than some of the other AI assistants (Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, ChatGPT or Grok) [1-5]. One structural flaw of DeepSeek is that it is not able to disclose the sources it used to write its essays. It creates plausible references out of thin air [6]. Other AI assistants have also been found guilty of this flaw at times. Sometimes they create references out of thin air; other times they merely report information that is inaccurate [7-11].

Thus, scholars who want to find research on the issue in question must do their own research. Another flaw is that the Chinese creators of DeepSeek have programmed it not to discuss issues that are sensitive to the Communist Chinese Party. For scholars who would like to investigate this flaw, I suggest asking DeepSeek a question that involves China or Hong Kong. One study found that it refused to write an essay that involved Panama [12], probably because there is a controversy about China's influence over the Panama Canal [13-15].

## The Study

DeepSeek's analysis on the justifiability of abortion consisted of giving it instructions to write a series of essays addressing the various sub-issues on the abortion issue. The results of the study are given below. Some of its essays were preceded by providing an analysis of its thought process, something that other AI assistants do not do (yet).

### Instruction

Write an essay that discusses and defines homicide. When is homicide justifiable and when is it not justifiable?

### Deep Seek Reply

**Thought for 44 seconds. [A summary of its thought process]**

Okay, I need to write an essay defining homicide and discussing when it's justifiable versus not. Let me start by understanding homicide. It's the act of one person killing another, right? But there are different types, like murder and manslaughter. So first, I should define homicide in general and then break it down into its categories.

Next, I need to explain when homicide is justifiable. From what I remember, self-defense is a common justification. If someone is in immediate danger and kills to protect themselves, that might be okay. Also, maybe defense of others, like protecting someone else's life. What about legal executions? In some places, the death penalty is legal, so that's state-sanctioned homicide. Then there's war situations, where soldiers kill enemies, but that's governed by laws of war. I should check if these are considered justifiable or if there's more nuance.

Now, when is it not justifiable? Murder with intent, like premeditated killing. Also, crimes of passion might be less justifiable, but maybe they fall under manslaughter. Felony murder, when someone dies during the commission of a felony, even if unintentional. Also, negligent homicide, like causing death through recklessness. Then there's euthanasia, which is a gray area depending on the jurisdiction. Assisted suicide isn't legal everywhere, so that might be non-justifiable in some places.

I need to structure the essay. Start with an introduction defining homicide. Then in the body, first part discusses the different types: murder (first-degree, second-degree), manslaughter (voluntary, involuntary). Then move on to

justifiable homicides: self-defense, defense of others, legal execution, war. Then non-justifiable: murder, manslaughter, felony murder, negligent homicide. Maybe include some examples or cases to illustrate points. Also, touch on ethical considerations, like the debate around the death penalty or euthanasia.

Wait, I need to make sure the distinction between justifiable and excusable is clear. Some jurisdictions separate them, where justifiable is without blame (like self-defense) and excusable might be accidental but still have some fault. But maybe for this essay, it's okay to group them under justifiable when discussing legal defenses.

Also, make sure to mention that justifiability depends on legal systems. For example, some countries don't have the death penalty, so that wouldn't be justifiable there. Similarly, stand-your-ground laws vs. duty to retreat in self-defense cases.

### Potential structure:

1. Introduction: Define homicide, mention its different forms and the importance of context in determining justifiability.
2. Definition and Types of Homicide: Differentiate between murder, manslaughter, etc.
3. Justifiable Homicide: Self-defense, defense of others, legal execution, war.
4. Non-justifiable Homicide: Murder (premeditated, felony), manslaughter (voluntary/involuntary), negligent homicide.
5. Ethical and Legal Debates: Discuss controversies like death penalty, euthanasia, stand-your-ground laws.
6. Conclusion: Summarize key points, reiterate the importance of context and law.

I should also find some legal references, like the Model Penal Code or specific laws, to back up definitions. Maybe mention specific cases, like a self-defense case that went to court, or a controversial execution. But since this is an essay, perhaps keep it more general unless examples are necessary.

Need to ensure that the essay flows logically from definition to justification, using clear examples. Avoid getting too bogged down in legal jargon but still be precise. Also, address both legal and moral perspectives where relevant, but focus on legal justifiability as per the question.

Check for any nuances, like the difference between justifiable and excusable homicide in legal terms. For instance, some jurisdictions might consider a homicide excusable if it's an accident without negligence, but justifiable if there's a positive reason like defense. But maybe that's too detailed. The essay should clarify that justifiable means it's deemed acceptable under the law, while non-justifiable is criminal.

Also, make sure to discuss intent. Justifiable homicides typically lack malice aforethought, whereas non-justifiable involve malice, recklessness, or negligence.

### Possible outline points:

- Introduction: Homicide is killing another person; varies by intent and circumstance.
- Legal definitions: murder vs. manslaughter, intent matters.
- Justifiable: when society/legal system deems it acceptable (self-defense, legal sanctions).
- Non-justifiable: unlawful killings with malice or negligence.
- Conclusion: Context determines justification; legal systems codify these distinctions.

I think that covers it. Now, start drafting each section with these points, ensuring clarity and logical flow.

## Essay on Homicide: Definitions and Justifiability

### Introduction

Homicide, the act of one human being causing the death of another, is a complex subject governed by legal, moral, and societal norms. While universally recognized as a grave act, its classification and justifiability depend on intent, circumstance, and jurisdictional laws. This essay explores the definitions of homicide, examines scenarios where it is deemed justifiable, and contrasts these with situations where it is not, highlighting the nuanced interplay between law and ethics.

### Definition and Types of Homicide

Homicide encompasses both lawful and unlawful killings. Legally, it is categorized into murder and manslaughter. Murder involves intentional killing with "malice aforethought," subdivided into first-degree (premeditated) and second-degree (intentional but unplanned). Manslaughter, less culpable, includes voluntary (heat-of-passion killings) and involuntary (unintentional deaths from recklessness or criminal negligence). These distinctions underscore the role of intent in determining severity.

### Justifiable Homicide

Justifiable homicide occurs when the law exempts the perpetrator from criminal liability due to societal recognition of necessity or legitimacy. Key examples include:

1. **Self-Defense or Defense of Others:** Permitted when imminent threat of death or serious harm exists, and force is proportional. Jurisdictions vary, with "stand-your-ground" laws allowing lethal force without retreat, while others impose a "duty to retreat."

2. **Legal Sanctions:** State-sanctioned executions in retentionist countries, though controversial and illegal in many regions.
3. **Warfare:** Combatants adhering to international laws (e.g., Geneva Conventions) may kill enemy forces, distinguishing lawful acts from war crimes.

These cases reflect a legal balance between individual rights and public order, absent of malice or criminal intent.

## Non-Justifiable Homicide

Unlawful homicides involve moral blameworthiness and attract criminal penalties. Examples include:

1. **Murder:** Premeditated killings or intentional acts without legal justification. Felony murder rules hold perpetrators liable for deaths occurring during felonies, even if unintended.
2. **Manslaughter:** Voluntary manslaughter (e.g., crime of passion) lacks premeditation but involves intent, while involuntary manslaughter arises from negligence (e.g., fatal DUI accidents).
3. **Negligent Homicide:** Deaths resulting from reckless disregard for safety, such as preventable workplace accidents.

These acts violate legal and ethical standards, prioritizing punishment and deterrence.

## Ethical and Legal Debates

Controversies persist around borderline cases. The death penalty divides societies, with critics deeming it immoral. Euthanasia and assisted suicide, legal in some jurisdictions (e.g., Netherlands, Canada), challenge traditional views on agency and sanctity of life. Similarly, "stand-your-ground" laws spark debates on racial bias and escalation of violence.

## Conclusion

Homicide's justifiability hinges on context, intent, and legal frameworks. While self-defense and lawful sanctions are recognized exemptions, unlawful killings reflect societal condemnation of malice and negligence. As norms evolve, so too will legal interpretations, underscoring the dynamic interplay between justice, morality, and human rights. Understanding these distinctions is vital for informed discourse on crime, punishment, and ethical governance.

## Author Comments

DeepSeek wrote an excellent essay. It was well organized and hit on all the main points. One flaw is that it did not cite its sources, which was expected, since prior studies have found that it is not capable of giving accurate sources.

## Instruction

Write an essay that discusses and defines negligence. When does an act constitute negligence?

## Deep Seek Reply

Thought for 41 seconds. [A summary of its thought process]

Okay, so I need to write an essay about negligence. Let me start by understanding what negligence is. From what I remember, negligence is a legal concept where someone fails to take proper care, leading to harm or damage. But I need to get the definition right. Maybe I should check some sources or think about examples.

First, the essay should define negligence. I think the basic definition is when someone doesn't act with the level of care that a reasonable person would in the same situation. That's the "duty of care" part. Then, if they breach that duty, and it causes harm, they might be liable. But I need to break this down properly.

The user wants to know when an act constitutes negligence. So, I need to outline the elements that make an act negligent. From what I recall, there are four main elements: duty, breach, causation, and damages. Let me make sure I get those right. Duty means the person had a responsibility to act a certain way. Breach is when they didn't meet that responsibility. Causation links the breach to the harm, and damages are the actual harm suffered.

Wait, but how do these elements work together? For example, if a driver runs a red light and hits someone, the driver had a duty to follow traffic laws, breached that duty by running the red light, which directly caused the accident, resulting in injuries. That seems like a clear case of negligence.

But there might be more nuances. What about cases where the duty isn't so obvious? Like a doctor-patient relationship has a clear duty, but what about a bystander? Do they have a duty to help? Probably not, unless there's a specific relationship, like a parent-child. So duty can depend on the relationship between the parties.

Also, the "reasonable person" standard. How is that determined? It's an objective measure, so even if the person didn't mean to cause harm, if a reasonable person would have acted differently, it's a breach. For instance, leaving a spilled liquid in a supermarket aisle without cleaning it up could be a breach if a reasonable person would clean it to prevent slips.

Causation has two parts: actual cause and proximate cause. Actual cause is the direct cause ("but-for" the action, the harm wouldn't have occurred). Proximate cause is about foreseeability. If the harm was a foreseeable result of the action, then proximate cause exists. But if the harm was too remote or unexpected, maybe not.

Damages need to be actual, quantifiable harm. So even if someone was negligent, if there's no real damage, there might not be a case. Like if someone nearly gets hit by a car but isn't injured, there's no damages to claim.

Examples would help. Medical malpractice is a common area for negligence. If a surgeon leaves a tool inside a patient, that's a breach of duty, leading to infection (causation), and the patient suffers (damages). Another example could be a landlord not fixing a broken staircase, leading to a tenant's injury.

I should also mention defenses to negligence. Contributory negligence, where the plaintiff's own negligence contributed to the harm, but that's a harsh rule because even 1% fault bars recovery. Comparative negligence is more common now, reducing damages based on the plaintiff's fault. Assumption of risk is another defense, like if someone knowingly engages in a risky activity.

Wait, but the user didn't ask for defenses, just when an act constitutes negligence. Still, understanding the defenses might help in explaining the boundaries.

I should structure the essay with an introduction defining negligence, then break down the elements with examples, discuss each element in detail, maybe touch on the reasonable person standard, causation, and damages. Then conclude by summarizing when an act is considered negligent.

I need to make sure the essay is clear and flows logically. Start with the definition, then each element in order. Use examples to illustrate each point. Avoid legal jargon where possible, or explain it when used.

Let me check if there are any other aspects. Maybe differentiate between negligence and intentional torts. Negligence is unintentional, whereas intentional torts like battery are deliberate. That contrast can help clarify the definition.

Also, maybe mention gross negligence, which is a more severe form showing reckless disregard. But perhaps that's beyond the scope unless necessary.

Alright, I think I have a structure. Now, to put it all together coherently.

## Essay on Negligence: Definition and Criteria

### Introduction

Negligence is a foundational concept in tort law, addressing harm caused by careless behavior rather than intentional wrongdoing. It holds individuals or entities accountable when their failure to exercise reasonable care results in injury or damage to others. This essay explores the legal definition of negligence, outlines the criteria that establish when an act constitutes negligence, and examines real-world applications of this principle.

### Defining Negligence

Negligence is legally defined as the failure to behave with the level of care that a reasonably prudent person would have exercised under the same circumstances. Unlike intentional torts (e.g., assault or theft), negligence

involves unintentional harm arising from carelessness, oversight, or recklessness. Its core purpose is to incentivize responsible conduct and provide redress for victims of avoidable harm.

### Elements of Negligence

For an act to constitute negligence, four key elements must be established:

#### 1. Duty of Care:

The defendant must owe a legal duty to the plaintiff to act responsibly. This duty arises from relationships or circumstances where harm is foreseeable. Examples include:

- Drivers owing a duty to follow traffic laws to protect others on the road.
- Doctors owing a duty to provide competent medical care to patients.
- Property owners owing a duty to maintain safe premises for visitors.

#### 2. Breach of Duty:

The defendant must have breached this duty by failing to meet the "reasonable person standard." This objective measure asks: Would a hypothetical reasonable person have acted differently in the same situation?

- Example: A store owner who ignores a spilled liquid for hours, leading to a customer's slip-and-fall injury, breaches their duty to maintain safe premises.

#### 3. Causation:

The breach must directly cause the plaintiff's harm. This involves two components:

- **Actual Cause (Cause-in-Fact):** The harm would not have occurred "but for" the defendant's actions (e.g., a driver running a red light directly causes a collision).
- **Proximate Cause (Legal Cause):** The harm must be a foreseeable consequence of the defendant's actions. Remote or unexpected outcomes may break this chain (e.g., if a car accident unexpectedly triggers a heart attack in a bystander).

#### 4. Damages:

The plaintiff must suffer actual, quantifiable harm, such as physical injury, financial loss, or emotional distress. Without demonstrable damages, there is no basis for a negligence claim.

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### Examples of Negligence in Practice

- **Medical Malpractice:** A surgeon leaving a surgical instrument inside a patient, leading to infection, breaches the duty of care and causes direct harm.
- **Product Liability:** A manufacturer selling defective brakes that fail, resulting in a car



accident, demonstrates negligence in quality control.

- **Premises Liability:** A landlord failing to repair a broken staircase, causing a tenant's fall, breaches their duty to ensure tenant safety.

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## Key Considerations

- **Reasonable Person Standard:** This objective metric avoids subjectivity, focusing on societal expectations of prudence. For instance, texting while driving is deemed unreasonable due to its known risks.
- **Foreseeability:** Courts assess whether harm was a predictable result of the defendant's actions. A drunk driver causing a crash involves foreseeable harm, whereas an unforeseeable allergic reaction to a common food item might not.
- **Defences:** While not required to establish negligence, defenses like contributory negligence (plaintiff's own carelessness) or assumption of risk (plaintiff knowingly accepted danger) can mitigate liability.

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## Conclusion

Negligence arises when an individual's failure to exercise reasonable care causes foreseeable harm to another. By requiring proof of duty, breach, causation, and damages, the law distinguishes mere accidents from legally actionable negligence. This framework not only compensates victims but also promotes accountability and safer behavior in society. Understanding these criteria is essential for navigating personal injury claims, workplace safety protocols, and everyday ethical decision-making.

This structured analysis clarifies the boundaries of negligence, emphasizing its role in balancing individual responsibility with communal welfare.

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## Author Comments

Again DeepSeek wrote an excellent essay. It was well structured and analyzed the components of the legal issues involved.

## Instruction

Write an essay that examines the issue of when an unwanted pregnancy is the result of negligence.

## Deep Seek Reply

**Thought for 23 seconds. [A summary of its thought process]**

Okay, the user wants an essay examining when an unwanted pregnancy results from negligence. Let me start by understanding the core of the query. They're asking to link negligence, a legal term, to the context of unwanted pregnancies.

First, I need to define negligence in legal terms, as I did in the previous essay. The user probably expects a similar structure here. Then, apply those elements to the specific scenario of unwanted pregnancy.

So, the elements of negligence are duty of care, breach, causation, and damages. How do these apply here? Let's think of possible scenarios. Medical malpractice, like a failed sterilization or contraceptive procedure. Maybe a pharmacist dispensing the wrong medication. Or a partner tampering with contraceptives.

But the user might also be thinking about other situations. For example, misinformation from a healthcare provider. Or cases where someone didn't disclose STDs affecting pregnancy decisions.

I need to outline these scenarios, each as a case study. Then, discuss the challenges in proving negligence here. Causation can be tricky because pregnancy can result from multiple factors. Also, the concept of damages: is an unwanted pregnancy considered a harm? Some legal systems might not recognize it as such, especially with differing views on reproductive rights.

Ethical considerations are important too. Autonomy vs. responsibility. Societal views on parenthood and gender roles. Maybe mention how different jurisdictions handle this, like some U.S. states allowing "wrongful pregnancy" lawsuits while others don't.

The user might also want the essay to address the balance between personal responsibility and third-party liability. For instance, if a woman claims negligence against a partner for contraceptive failure, how does the law view that? It's less common, but possible in cases of deceit.

I should structure the essay with an introduction, sections on defining negligence, case studies, legal challenges, ethical issues, and a conclusion. Make sure to use examples from different areas like medical, pharmaceutical, interpersonal.

Need to check if there are notable cases or precedents. For example, cases where courts awarded damages for failed sterilizations. Also, mention defenses like contributory negligence if the plaintiff didn't follow instructions.

Be careful not to take a stance but present the complexities. The user likely wants an objective analysis. Also, connect back to the previous essays on homicide and negligence to maintain a coherent theme on legal definitions and applications.

Finally, ensure the conclusion summarizes the key points and reiterates the balance between accountability and reproductive autonomy. Highlight that this area is evolving with changing societal norms.

## Essay: When Is an Unwanted Pregnancy the Result of Negligence?

The intersection of negligence law and reproductive rights raises complex questions about accountability, autonomy, and societal norms. An unwanted pregnancy

can have profound physical, emotional, and financial consequences, leading some to ask: Under what circumstances might such a pregnancy be deemed the result of negligence? This essay examines scenarios where negligence could theoretically apply, the legal and ethical challenges involved, and the broader implications for individuals and institutions.

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## Defining Negligence in Context

Negligence, as established in tort law, requires four elements:

1. **Duty of Care:** A legal obligation to act reasonably to avoid foreseeable harm.
2. **Breach of Duty:** Failure to meet that standard of care.
3. **Causation:** A direct link between the breach and the harm suffered.
4. **Damages:** Quantifiable injury or loss.

Applying this framework to unwanted pregnancies involves analyzing whether a party's actions (or inactions) unreasonably caused the pregnancy and resultant harm.

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## Case Studies: When Negligence Might Apply

### 1. Medical Malpractice

Medical professionals or institutions may be liable if their negligence directly leads to an unwanted pregnancy. Examples include:

- **Failed Sterilization Procedures:** A surgeon's error during a tubal ligation or vasectomy, where the patient explicitly sought permanent contraception. Courts have awarded damages in such cases, recognizing the breach of duty and foreseeable harm (e.g., *C.S. v. Nizer*, 2014).
- **Contraceptive Failure Due to Error:** A healthcare provider prescribing incorrect dosages of birth control pills or improperly inserting an intrauterine device (IUD).
- **Misinformation:** Failing to inform a patient about contraceptive risks or efficacy rates (e.g., not disclosing that antibiotics reduce pill effectiveness).

### 2. Pharmaceutical or Product Liability

Manufacturers may face liability if contraceptives are defectively designed, mislabeled, or improperly manufactured. For instance:

- A defective condom batch that breaks despite correct use.
- Birth control pills contaminated or packaged with incorrect instructions.

### 3. Interpersonal Negligence

Claims against individuals, such as partners who deliberately sabotage contraception (e.g., "stealthing" — removing a condom without consent). Some jurisdictions now recognize this as sexual assault or fraud, though framing it as negligence remains contentious.

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## Legal and Evidentiary Challenges

### Proving Causation

Establishing a direct link between the defendant's actions and the pregnancy is fraught with difficulty. For example:

- Even with a failed sterilization, natural conception is not guaranteed. A plaintiff might need expert testimony to prove the procedure's failure directly caused the pregnancy.
- In cases of contraceptive sabotage, proving intent (rather than mere carelessness) may shift the claim from negligence to intentional tort.

### Damages and "Harm"

Courts often grapple with whether an unwanted pregnancy itself constitutes a compensable injury. Some argue that childbirth, while unintended, is not inherently harmful, especially if the child is healthy. However, plaintiffs may seek damages for:

- Medical costs of pregnancy and delivery.
- Emotional distress.
- Loss of income or educational opportunities.
- Costs of raising a child (though many jurisdictions limit this under the "benefit rule," arguing parenthood's joys offset financial burdens).

### Ethical and Cultural Sensitivities

Liability for unwanted pregnancies intersects with debates about reproductive autonomy, gender roles, and societal values. For instance:

- Critics argue that framing pregnancy as a "harm" risks stigmatizing parenthood or undermining reproductive choice.
- Others counter that accountability is necessary when third-party negligence deprives individuals of bodily autonomy.

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### Notable Legal Precedents

- **Wrongful Pregnancy Claims:** Some U.S. states allow lawsuits against healthcare providers for failed sterilizations or contraceptive errors, awarding costs related to the pregnancy but rarely child-rearing expenses (*Becker v. Schwartz*, 1978).
- **"Stealthing" as Tort:** In 2022, California passed a law allowing victims of nonconsensual condom removal to sue for damages, framing it as a violation of consent rather than negligence.
- **International Perspectives:** In the UK, courts have awarded damages for failed sterilizations but rejected claims involving healthy children, citing policy concerns about valuing human life.

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### Ethical Considerations

- **Autonomy vs. Responsibility:** Should individuals bear some responsibility for contraceptive use, or

does negligence law protect against systemic failures (e.g., flawed medical systems)?

- Gender Dynamics: Most plaintiffs in wrongful pregnancy cases are women, raising questions about gendered expectations of reproductive labor.
- Societal Costs: Holding institutions liable could incentivize better healthcare practices but might also increase defensive medicine or insurance costs.

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## Conclusion

An unwanted pregnancy may constitute negligence when a clear breach of duty directly causes foreseeable harm, particularly in medical or commercial contexts. However, legal systems face significant hurdles in balancing accountability with societal values about reproduction and parenthood. While courts increasingly recognize claims related to medical malpractice or product defects, interpersonal cases remain ethically and legally fraught. Ultimately, the issue underscores the need for clearer legal standards, equitable access to reproductive healthcare, and broader societal dialogue about autonomy and responsibility in family planning.

As reproductive technologies and norms evolve, so too will the legal landscape, requiring ongoing reassessment of when negligence—and justice—truly apply.

## Author Comments

I was especially impressed by the statement, “Be careful not to take a stance.” Some prior studies have found that other AI assistants have taken a stand and have produced results that were politically biased [16-24]. DeepSeek did not do so in this study. It produced a neutral presentation. The essay provided an excellent summary of the various issues. Attorneys who are representing a client, either as a plaintiff or defendant, might find it useful to utilize an AI assistant such as DeepSeek in order to generate ideas, since DeepSeek was able to identify some issues or nuances that an attorney might not consider. It is regrettable that DeepSeek did not provide references, which would have been helpful. However, scholars who are interested in the subject would be able to find relevant references with a little bit of digging. Also, they might consider using other AI assistants, since some of them are capable of providing references, although due diligence is required because some studies have found that chat bots sometimes create references out of thin air [6, 7, 25].

## Instruction

Write an essay on the issue of whether the termination of a pregnancy constitutes homicide.

## Deep Seek Reply

**Thought for 28 seconds. [A summary of its thought process]**

Okay, so the user wants me to write an essay on whether terminating a pregnancy constitutes homicide. Let me start by understanding the key points here. First, I need to define both "termination of pregnancy" and "homicide." Homicide is the killing of one human being by another. But when does a fetus become a human being in the legal or moral sense? That's the crux of the debate.

The user probably expects a balanced analysis, considering both pro-life and pro-choice arguments. I should address the legal definitions in different jurisdictions. For example, some places recognize fetal personhood at conception, others at viability, and some at birth. This affects whether abortion is legally considered homicide.

I need to explore the ethical perspectives. The moral status of the fetus is central. If one believes life begins at conception, then abortion is homicide. If personhood begins later, like at viability, then it's not. Philosophical arguments from thinkers like Judith Jarvis Thomson or Don Marquis might be relevant here.

Religious views can't be ignored. Many religions have specific stances on when life begins, influencing their members' positions on abortion. However, the essay should remain secular, focusing on legal and ethical arguments primarily.

There's also the aspect of bodily autonomy. Even if the fetus is considered a person, does the right to bodily autonomy override the fetus's right to life? This ties into legal cases like *Roe v. Wade* and the recent *Dobbs* decision in the U.S., which shifted the legal landscape.

I should mention the variations in laws globally. Some countries allow abortion on demand, others only under certain circumstances. How these laws define personhood impacts whether abortion is seen as homicide.

Potential counterarguments need addressing. For instance, even if the fetus is a person, the right to life doesn't necessarily include the right to use another person's body without consent, as per the violinist analogy. Also, the distinction between murder and justified killing in self-defense or similar scenarios.

I need to make sure the essay is well-structured. Maybe start with definitions, then legal perspectives, ethical arguments, religious views, and conclude with the implications for society and law.

Also, check if there's any recent legal changes or significant cases that should be included to keep the essay current. The *Dobbs* case in 2022 is a major one, overturning *Roe v. Wade*, which would be essential to mention.

Make sure to clarify that the term "homicide" is a legal term, and its application depends on how the law defines a person. Without legal personhood assigned to the fetus, abortion can't be homicide in the legal sense, even if some argue it's morally equivalent.



Include statistics or examples where possible, like countries with strict abortion laws versus those with liberal ones, and how they handle the personhood question.

Avoid biased language; present both sides fairly. The conclusion should summarize the complexity and note that the issue hinges on definitions of life and personhood, which vary widely.

## Essay: Does the Termination of a Pregnancy Constitute Homicide?

The question of whether abortion constitutes homicide is one of the most polarizing ethical, legal, and philosophical debates of modern times. At its core, this issue hinges on competing definitions of life, personhood, and rights—concepts that vary widely across cultural, religious, and legal frameworks. This essay examines the arguments for and against classifying abortion as homicide, analyzes how different societies and legal systems approach the issue, and explores the implications of these definitions for human rights and bodily autonomy.

### Defining Key Terms

1. **Homicide:** Legally defined as the killing of one human being by another. Most jurisdictions require the victim to be a legally recognized "person," typically post-birth.
2. **Pregnancy Termination:** The deliberate ending of a pregnancy, which may occur through medical abortion, miscarriage (spontaneous abortion), or other means. The ethical debate centers on elective abortion.

The crux of the dispute lies in determining when a fetus becomes a person entitled to legal protections.

### Arguments That Abortion Constitutes Homicide

#### 1. Biological and Religious Perspectives

- **Life Begins at Conception:** Many religious traditions (e.g., Catholicism, evangelical Christianity) and pro-life advocates argue that personhood begins at fertilization. From this view, terminating a pregnancy destroys a unique human life, equivalent to homicide.
- **Fetal Development:** Critics of abortion often emphasize fetal milestones (e.g., heartbeat at 6 weeks, brain activity at 12 weeks) as evidence of humanity. Some U.S. states have enacted "fetal homicide laws" that penalize harm to a fetus as a crime against a person.

#### 2. Legal Personhood Claims

- **Fetal Rights Movements:** In jurisdictions like El Salvador or Malta, abortion is banned entirely, reflecting the belief that fetal life holds equal value to born individuals. Such laws implicitly equate abortion with homicide.

- **Wrongful Death Lawsuits:** In some cases, third parties (e.g., drunk drivers) who cause a miscarriage have been charged with fetal homicide, reinforcing the idea of fetal personhood.

### Arguments Against Classifying Abortion as Homicide

#### 1. Legal Distinctions Between Fetus and Person

- **Birth as a Legal Threshold:** Most legal systems grant personhood at birth, as codified in international human rights instruments like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Under this framework, abortion cannot be homicide because the fetus lacks legal standing as a person.
- **Viability Standard:** The 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision (overturned in 2022) permitted abortion until fetal viability (~24 weeks), arguing that pre-viability fetuses lack the capacity to survive independently.

#### 2. Bodily Autonomy and Rights of the Pregnant Person

- **Right to Self-Determination:** Pro-choice advocates argue that forced pregnancy violates bodily autonomy, a fundamental human right. Philosopher Judith Jarvis Thomson's famous "violinist analogy" posits that even if a fetus is a person, it does not have the right to use another's body without consent.
- **Health and Socioeconomic Factors:** Restrictions on abortion disproportionately harm marginalized groups, compounding risks of maternal mortality, poverty, and unsafe procedures.

#### 3. Ethical Complexity of Personhood

- **Philosophical Uncertainty:** Scholars like Peter Singer question whether a fetus, lacking consciousness or self-awareness, qualifies as a "person" with moral rights. Others distinguish between biological life and moral personhood.
- **Global Legal Diversity:** Nations like Canada and the Netherlands permit elective abortion without gestational limits, while others, like Poland, impose near-total bans. This variability reflects unresolved debates about personhood.

### Legal and Cultural Implications

#### 1. Criminalization and Human Rights

- In countries where abortion is equated with homicide, penalties range from imprisonment (e.g., El Salvador) to fines (e.g., Texas' SB8 law). Such policies often deter access to lifesaving care, as seen in cases where miscarriages are misclassified as illegal abortions.

- Conversely, human rights bodies like the WHO argue that abortion access is essential to gender equality and reproductive justice.

## 2. The Role of Science and Medicine

- Advances in neonatology (e.g., survival of premature infants at 22 weeks) have fueled debates about viability. However, medical consensus maintains that a fetus cannot feel pain until the third trimester, complicating claims of fetal sentience.
- The rise of "fetal personhood" legislation in the U.S. post-Dobbs v. Jackson (2022) has led to conflicts over IVF, contraception, and emergency obstetric care.

## 3. Societal and Ethical Trade-Offs

- Equating abortion with homicide risks eroding the rights of pregnant individuals, particularly in cases of rape, incest, or fetal anomalies.
- Conversely, dismissing all abortion regulations may ignore ethical concerns about late-term procedures, though these constitute a small minority of cases.

## Conclusion

Whether abortion constitutes homicide depends on contested definitions of personhood, rights, and morality. Legally, most nations reject the equation of abortion with homicide by withholding personhood status until birth. Ethically, the debate reflects deeper tensions between individual autonomy and collective values. However, framing abortion as homicide oversimplifies a nuanced issue, ignoring the lived realities of pregnant individuals and the societal consequences of criminalization.

Ultimately, resolving this debate requires balancing respect for potential life with recognition of bodily autonomy and human rights. As science, law, and ethics continue to evolve, societies must prioritize compassionate, evidence-based policies that protect both the vulnerable and the free. The answer lies not in absolutism but in acknowledging the complexity of life itself.

## Author Comments

Notice that the essays so far have focused mainly on the U.S. legal system and rules, although references have also been made to the laws of other countries. Although references were not given, researchers who want to learn more about a particular rule or jurisdiction are being alerted to the existence of such rules in different jurisdictions, making it easier for them to conduct their own research.

## Concluding Comments

The present study was a good exercise that shows how AI assistants (DeepSeek in particular) can be used as a first step in research. However, due diligence is still required

because references, if any, must be checked to see if the source referenced actually exists, and if the DeepSeek discussion fairly reflects the original source. Scholars may find Deep Seek to be a useful tool for their own research, as it can provide a good starting point to identify issues, sub issues and possible arguments and positions that may be adopted regardless of the researcher's own position on an issue.

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