

Priests for Life v. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

TIMELINE

- February 15, 2012: Priests for Life becomes the fourth group in the nation to file a lawsuit against the HHS mandate. The lawsuit is filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.
- December 21, 2012: A court-endorsed stipulation is entered preventing the government from enforcing the HHS mandate against Priests for Life while the Obama administration is preparing new regulations that will affect the application of the mandate to nonprofit religious organizations such as Priests for Life. The stipulation is in effect from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.
- April 12, 2013: Over a year later, amidst continued promises by the Obama administration to create new regulations that would allegedly accommodate the religious objections of nonprofit religious organizations to the HHS mandate, the court dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice, allowing Priests for Life to file a new lawsuit once the revised regulations are finalized. The same was being done with most of the other religious non-profit cases.
- June 28, 2013: The Obama administration announced that it had issued its long-awaited, final rules on contraceptive coverage and religious organizations. These rules were published in the Federal Register on July 2 and became effective on August 1. They would apply to the healthcare plans of non-exempt religious organizations at the beginning of the organization's plan year after August 1. For Priests for Life, that date was January 1, 2014.
- August 19, 2013 Priests for Life filed a federal lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, challenging the HHS mandate as applied to nonprofit religious organizations.
- September 19, 2013 Priests for Life filed a motion for a preliminary injunction, seeking to halt the enforcement of the HHS mandate while the case proceeds through litigation. The district court consolidated Priests for Life's motion for a preliminary injunction with a ruling on the merits, directing Priests for Life to also file a motion for summary judgment.
- October 1, 2013 Priests for Life filed its motion for summary judgment, requesting that the court permanently halt the enforcement of the HHS mandate.
- October 17, 2013 The government opposed Priests for Life's motion and filed its own motion to dismiss.
- December 9, 2013 The district court heard oral argument on the parties' motions.

December 19, 2013	The district court issued its decision denying Priests for Life's motion and granting the government's motion to dismiss.
December 19, 2013	Priests for Life filed its notice of appeal with U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ("D.C. Circuit").
December 20, 2013	Priests for Life filed an emergency motion for an injunction, seeking to halt the enforcement of the HHS mandate while the case proceeds through the appeal process.
December 31, 2013	The D.C. Circuit granted Priests for Life's emergency motion, halting the enforcement of the HHS mandate pending resolution of the appeal. The D.C. Circuit also expedited the appeal.
February 28, 2014	Priests for Life filed its opening brief in the D.C. Circuit.
April 11, 2014	Priests for Life filed its reply brief in the D.C. Circuit, thereby completing the briefing.
May 8, 2014	Oral argument scheduled before a three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit.
June 30, 2014	Documents submitted to the DC Circuit Court of appeals in light of the Hobby Lobby decision.
September 16, 2014	Brief filed with the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, about how we believe recent developments in the Hobby Lobby and EWTN cases strengthen our case.
November 14, 2014	US Court of Appeal Rules Against Priests for Life in Challenge to HHS Mandate.
December 26, 2014	Text of the appeal to the full body of Judges of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.
May 4, 2015	Letter Sent to DC Court to Strengthen Argument in Light of Supreme Court Action
May 2015	Order from the court: They will not rehear Priests for Life case in front of all the judges
May 2015	Motion to Stay Mandate: Asking court to prevent implementation of mandate while appeal goes forward
June 9, 2015	Petition asking the Supreme Court to hear our case
June 10, 2015	Order granting stay

August 12, 2015	The government filed its brief opposing Priests for Life's request for Supreme Court review.
August 25, 2015	Priests for Life filed its response to the government's August 12 brief.
August 26, 2015	Priests for Life's case distributed to the Supreme Court justices for their consideration at their September 28 conference.
September 18, 2015	Priests for Life filed a supplemental brief in support of its request for Supreme Court review.
October 14, 2015	Priests for Life's case distributed to the Supreme Court justices for their consideration at their October 30 conference.
November 2, 2015	Priests for Life's case distributed to the Supreme Court justices for their consideration at their November 6 conference.
November 6, 2015	Supreme Court agrees to hear Priests for Life's case along with six other lawsuits challenging the HHS mandate. The case number is 14-1418.
November 16, 2015	Supreme Court agrees to the schedule for filing briefs proposed by both parties. Petitioners will file their opening brief by January 4, 2016; the government will file its response by February 10, 2016; the petitioners will file their reply brief by March 11, 2016.
December 14, 2015	Counsel for the government agree to the filing of amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs by those in support of either party or of neither party.
December 15, 2015	Counsel for the petitioners agree to the filing of amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs by those in support of either party or of neither party.
January 4, 2016	Priests for Life filed its opening brief.
January 5, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by Orthodox Jewish Rabbis in support of petitioners (i.e. Priests for Life and others).
January 8, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance, World Vision, Inc., Catholic Relief Services, the Family Research Council, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the Thomas More Society, and the Cardinal Newman Society in support of petitioners.
January 8, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by CNS International Ministries, Inc. and Heartland Christian College in support of petitioners.

January 10, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by Residents and Families of Residents at Homes of the Little Sisters of the Poor in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the College of the Ozarks.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by 20 states (TX, OH, AL, AZ, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, KS, MI, MT, NE, NV, OK, SC, SD, UT, WV, and WI) in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the International Mission Board, and Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr. in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by Christian Legal Society, the Association of Christian Schools International, and the American Association of Christian Schools in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the Church of The Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc., International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Inc., Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, and Pastor Robert Soto and Other Members of the Lipan Apache Tribe in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the Christian Missionary Alliance Foundation in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by 207 Members of Congress in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) in support of petitioners.

January 11,, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the Eagle Forum Education and Legal Defense Fund in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by Former Justice Department Officials in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the Ethics and Public Policy Center in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the Cato Institute and the Independent Women's Forum in support of petitioners.

January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the National Association of Evangelicals, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Assemblies of God,

the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, and the Colorado Christian University in support of petitioners.

- January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by Catholic Theologians and Ethicists in support of petitioners.
- January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the Association of American Physicians & Surgeons, American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists, Christian Medical Association, Catholic Medical Association, Physicians for Life, National Association of Pro Life Nurses, National Association of Catholic Nurses-U.S.A., and the National Catholic Bioethics Center in support of petitioners.
- January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by Constitutional Law Scholars in support of petitioners.
- January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by Women Speak for Themselves in support of petitioners.
- January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by Liberty Counsel in support of petitioners.
- January 11, 2016 Friend of the court brief filed by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities in support of petitioners.
- January 15, 2016 Supreme Court granted a motion for divided argument and enlargement of time for oral argument.

January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by Knights of Columbus in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by Bart Stupak and the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; Sisters of Life; and the Judicial Education Project in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by the Thomas More Law Center in support of the petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by the ACNA Jurisdiction of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy and Ave Maria University in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by the Eternal Word Television Network in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by David Boyle in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by the Justice and Freedom Fund in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by Thirteen Law Professors in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by the International Conference of Evangelical Chaplain Endorsers in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by Concerned Women for American in support of petitioners.
January 11, 2016	Friend of the court brief filed by Michael J. New, PhD, Associate Scholar, Charlotte Lozier Institute in support of petitioners.
January 15, 2016	Supreme Court granted a motion for divided argument and enlargement of time for oral argument.
February 11, 2016	Brief for the Respondents filed.