

## Reversal of Roe v. Wade

Over the past week, both Dr. Keenan and I have received calls, texts and emails from patients concerned about how the recent Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade could affect our ability to care for our fertility patients.

The answer is simple - the ruling will not alter how **we** practice in any way since **we** have always emphasized the **sanctity of life** here at Southeastern Fertility.

Our website clearly lists our values, including **Life-affirming** care: *We believe in the sanctity of life and that each life created, whether naturally or through the use of reproductive technology, is unique and special.*

What does that mean in terms of how we care for our patients?

1. We encourage our patients undergoing IVF to pursue either Natural Cycle IVF (usually results in a single egg) or Mini Stim IVF (usually results in 3-8 eggs) in order to limit the number of eggs that may be potentially fertilized.
2. We frequently choose to limit the number of eggs that we fertilize and instead freeze unfertilized eggs for later use by our patients. In other words, we work with the couple to avoid creating an excessive number of embryos that they may not need or want.
3. We are a “no discard” IVF program, so any embryos that are viable will either be transferred or frozen for future use.
4. We have very few abandoned embryos because our patients are informed that if they abandon their frozen embryos, these embryos will be made available for embryo adoption.
5. We do not perform Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT) on any embryos, so we are never confronted with the dilemma of what to do with embryos that are not considered “perfect” or are an undesired gender. Additionally, PGT carries risks and we worry about the possibility of damaging an otherwise healthy embryo.
6. Working with the National Embryo Donation Center, we have performed more cycles of embryo adoption than any other IVF program in the world, averaging 200-300 cycles of embryo adoption every year.