

A black and white photograph of a newborn baby lying in a hospital bed. A hand is visible, gently holding the baby's hand. The baby is wearing a white diaper. The background is slightly blurred, showing the hospital bed and some equipment.

BABY HOPE:
FORCIBLY DELIVERED,
ALONE, AND LEFT
STRUGGLING FOR HIS
LIFE IN INTENSIVE CARE.

**THIS IS THE RESULT
OF FINE GAEL'S
ABORTION ACT.**

FORCED DELIVERY AT 25 WEEKS

In July 2014 **Baby Hope** was delivered prematurely by C-section, to a mother who said she was suicidal. He was forcibly delivered at 25 weeks, despite medical experts testifying that this is not how suicidal thoughts are treated in pregnancy.¹

This baby boy was sent to a Neonatal ICU, where he struggled for his life. Experts say that he has only a **20% chance** of being left unharmed by prematurity² and may suffer complications such as **blindness, cerebral palsy and chronic health issues**. It is estimated it will cost the State €90,000 to care for this baby while in intensive care³.

This premature delivery was not necessary, but happened because of Fine Gael's abortion law, which we can now clearly see does not help either mother or baby. The law also places doctors in an impossible position and is adding to the strain on an already-struggling HSE.



**THE TREATMENT FOR
SUICIDALITY IS TO MAKE SURE
THAT WOMEN ARE SAFE, AND
THAT THEY HAVE APPROPRIATE
SUPPORT, MEDICATION AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT.**

Testimony of psychiatrists at the Government's Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children Hearings, Jan 2013.

NO MEDICAL BASIS

In January 2013, at the Government's own hearings on abortion, every single psychiatrist called to testify stated that abortion is not a treatment for suicidal thoughts in pregnancy.⁴ It was acknowledged that the treatment for suicidality is to make sure that women are safe, and that they have appropriate support, medication and psychological treatment.

But Fine Gael ignored this evidence, and are forcing doctors to prescribe abortion as a treatment for suicidality, which they know is not the correct medical treatment for any mental health condition arising in pregnancy.

ABORTION ACT MISMANAGES WOMEN IN PREGNANCY

Baby Hope's mother should have received correct and evidence-based medical care to treat her mental health suffering. Terminating her pregnancy on the basis of suicidal feelings is not the appropriate treatment, as per all of the medical evidence.

This woman was failed by the State, who are forcing doctors to practice bad medicine.

THE ROLE OF THE IFPA

It appears this woman was not properly treated for her mental health condition. She expressed suicidal intent to the abortion agency, the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), on more than one occasion, yet she was never referred to psychiatric services for treatment. Why did the IFPA risk this woman's life in this way?

Vulnerable women need the right care when they are suffering with mental illness.



LEGISLATION NOT ABOUT SAVING WOMEN'S LIVES

Dr Sam Coulter Smyth, Master of the Rotunda Hospital, has now stated that when treating a pregnant woman with a physical threat to her life, his hospital offers the same medical treatment now as it would have before Fine Gael's Abortion Law was enacted.⁵

This Act was never about allowing doctors to save women's lives - it was about legalising abortion and legalising completely unnecessary terminations.

And now this is the result; a woman who did not receive proper medical care, a doctor forced to act on no medical basis and deliver a baby prematurely, and a tiny baby left alone, fighting for life in ICU and facing a lifetime of health issues.

This was not an act of nature, this was not a medical necessity; this was solely because Fine Gael **ignored the evidence** and forced through a medically flawed and unnecessary Abortion Act.

REFERENCES:

1., 4. Oireachtas Joint Committee On Health & Children Hearings On Abortion, January 2013, May 2013

http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/oireachtasbusiness/committees_list/health-and-children/

2., 3., 5. *Baby At Centre Of Latest Abortion Case 'Has 20-30Pc Chance' Of Normal Life*, Irish Independent, 18 August 2014

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/health/baby-at-centre-of-latest-abortion-case-has-2030pc-chance-of-normal-life-30515904.html>

ACT ALLOWS ABORTION THROUGHOUT ALL 9 MONTHS; **REPEAL IT NOW**

This is a shocking story and reveals the horrifying reality that Fine Gael's abortion legislation allows for abortions to take place throughout all nine months of pregnancy, if requested by a woman who expresses suicidal thoughts.

This act needs to be immediately repealed, however members of Fine Gael and Labour are instead calling for even wider access to abortion in Ireland.



UNBORN BABY AT 7 WEEKS

Image: Life Issues Institute

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

You need to call your local Fine Gael representative(s) **TODAY** and say:

- Your barbaric act has left a baby fighting for life in ICU. This is your doing and not the fault of the mother or doctors involved.
- You must immediately repeal the Abortion Act which allows for abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy.
- No Fine Gael candidate will receive my vote if they support the current legislation or any future legislation which effectively gives access to abortion on demand.

CALL the Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar TD, today on 01-6354000 (Ministerial Office) or 01-6403133 (Constituency Office).

SEE www.thelifeinstitute.net for a comprehensive list of contact information for all your local representatives. Please **CALL** them today.

Please call us on **01 8730465** to log your call(s).
Thank you.

