



THE ACLU OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE RIGHT TO SEXUAL PRIVACY

Sexual relations between consenting individuals is one of the most fundamental and intimate of human interactions – but also one prone to interference by the government. Listed below are some of the cases in which the Affiliate has been involved over the years to protect this freedom:

1973: *Doe v. Israel*. Successful federal court challenge to state anti-abortion law that was passed immediately after the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision.

1980: *Santos v. Brown*. Representation in federal court of a person convicted of violating state sodomy law prohibiting “the abominable and detestable crime against nature”; the defendant's conviction was reversed on other grounds.

1984: *Planned Parenthood v. Board of Medical Review*. Successful challenge to a state law requiring husbands to be notified before a woman could have an abortion.

1984. *In re: Mark*. Successful representation in Probate Court of a transgender individual initially denied permission to change his birth name to a unisex first name.

1986: *Planned Parenthood v. Roberts*. Successful federal court challenge to onerous “informed consent” and “parental consent” abortion statutes enacted by the General Assembly.

1986: *Planned Parenthood v. Calderone*. Successful federal challenge to a law prohibiting health insurers from providing abortion coverage except as an optional rider at an additional premium.

1987: *Field v. Field*. “Friend of the court” brief filed in state Supreme Court against Family Court custody restrictions on a mother solely because of her sexual orientation; the case was settled by the parties before oral argument.

1988: *Parrillo v. Parrillo*. R.I. Supreme Court appeal filed on behalf of a mother barred by Family Court from allowing her boyfriend to stay overnight when her children were present.

1995: *State v. Lopes*. “Friend of the court” brief in RI Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the “abominable and detestable crime against nature” statute.

1998: *Rhode Island Medical Society v. Pine*. Successful federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a law banning so-called “partial birth abortions.”

2005: *Tiverton School Committee v. McCullough*. Successful representation of a retired school teacher who sought to have the school district add her same-sex spouse to her health insurance plan.

2007: *Chambers v. Ormiston*. “Friend of the court brief” supporting the right of a same-sex couple validly married in Massachusetts to have their divorce petition considered in Family Court.