



The Aitkin Pharmacy Case

Case Name: *Anderson v. Aitkin Pharmacy; Badeaux*

Case Action: Oral arguments at the Minnesota Court of Appeals December 21, 2023

Significance: Whether healthcare professionals can practice medicine without being forced to violate their faith.

Background: George Badeaux has been a licensed pharmacist for over 30 years in Minnesota. He has served thousands of customers and maintained a pristine career record. As a devout Christian, George believes every human life has value. As such, George cannot provide or facilitate the use of any potential abortion-causing drugs. However, George was willing to refer any such prescriptions to other pharmacists who had no objections to these types of drugs. One day, while working at Aitkin Pharmacy, George received a call from Andrea Anderson who wanted to pick up a prescription for ella, “emergency contraception” that has the potential to end human life in the womb. George politely informed Anderson that she could pick up her prescription the next day and that another non-objecting pharmacist was scheduled to be at Aitkin Pharmacy. Due to inclement weather, George warned Anderson there was a chance the other pharmacist might not be able to make it to the store. After she decided to go elsewhere, George transferred her prescription to Walgreens, which provided her ella. Despite George’s attempts to accommodate her request and the non-objecting pharmacist’s presence at Aitkin Pharmacy the next day, Anderson sued the pharmacy and George, claiming that he discriminated against her on the basis of her sex under the Minnesota Human Rights Act. After a jury in the lower court sided with George and Aitkin Pharmacy, ruling that they did not violate the law, Anderson appealed to the Minnesota Appeals Court.

Key Points

- Healthcare professionals shouldn’t be targeted for their religious beliefs.
- Every American should have the freedom to live according to their rights of conscience. Doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals are no different.
- No one should be forced to choose between their faith and their profession.

Key Facts

- As a devout Christian, George believes life has great value, and cannot dispense drugs that could cause an abortion.
- When George received a call that requested him to violate his beliefs, he accommodated the customer’s request by referring her prescription to a different pharmacist.

The Bottom Line: Healthcare professionals shouldn’t be targeted for their religious beliefs.