Baird gave away vaginal foam to a woman following his lecture on birth control and overpopulation at Boston University. Sherriff Eisenstadt brought him to court, and Baird was charged with a felony. Massachusetts law only allowed married couples to obtain contraceptives from registered doctors or pharmacists; Baird was neither.

William Baird v. Thomas Eisenstadt (Suffolk County Sherriff, MA)

Eisenstadt V. Baird (1972) Judicial Power: Standing to Sue, Personal Injury

Decided in favor

of Baird

Does the Massachusetts law violate the right to privacy acknowledged in Griswold v. Connecticut and protected from state instrusion by the Fourteenth Amendment?

> The Supreme Court struck down this state law in Eisenstadt v. Baird, but not because of the "right to privacy." The Court ruled that married and single individuals should be treated the same in the eyes of the law. This decision established the right of unmarried individuals to obtain contraceptives.



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