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Conscience Rights Win in Washington State

There’s been a great victory for freedom of conscience. Last week, a federal judge ruled that Washington state cannot require pharmacists to dispense emergency contraceptives if it violates their religious beliefs. A state regulation requires pharmacies to dispense Plan B, an emergency contraceptive drug.

But the judge declared Washington state’s regulation unconstitutional because it stomped on pharmacists’ rights to “conscientious objection.” The plaintiffs were two pharmacists who would have been forced to leave their profession because they could not in good conscience dispense this drug because it can destroy an embryo. The lawsuit was filed by Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.