



## Minister on trial for abortion clinic protest



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A California pastor has been found guilty of violating a city ordinance related to abortion clinic demonstrations.



Reverend Walter Hoyer is a Baptist, pro-life pastor from Berkeley. According to a *California Catholic Daily* article, he has been convicted of two counts of "unlawful approach" to women seeking abortions, as the new "bubble law" requires demonstrators to stay at least 100 yards from abortion clinics and anyone associated with them -- employees and patients.

Katie Short, an attorney with [Life Legal Defense Foundation](#) tells OneNewsNow that an abortion clinic got fed up with Hoyer because he was so successful at convincing women not to abort their babies.

"They got the city council to pass a special ordinance saying that anyone seeking to give out information or counsel people entering abortion clinics had to ask permission from eight feet away before doing that," she explains.

Clinic personnel said he violated the law, but Short contends their testimony was false.

"There was someone who had been videotaping that day," she notes. "And if you look at what the escorts said and what actually happened, it was clear that they were just making up things when they said, 'Oh, he got within inches of a patient or another patient was holding up her hands to ward him off,' and all of that was totally fictional."

The article claims the tape proves Hoyer was approached by clinic employees. Although several charges were dropped, Pastor Hoyer faces up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine on two counts. However, Short plans to appeal the case.

In addition, Short has filed suit in federal court asking that the ordinance be declared unconstitutional.