1901 Arizona Comstock Law [1]

By: Malladi, Lakshmeeramya

Sources

In 1901, the Arizona Territorial Legislature codified territorial law that illegalized advertising, causing, or performing abortions anywhere in Arizona. The 1901 code, in conjunction with the federal Comstock Act, regulated the advertisement and accessibility of abortion services and contraceptives in Arizona. The Federal Comstock Act of 1873 had illegalized the distribution of material on contraceptives and abortions through the US Postal Services by labeling contraceptive and abortive material as obscene. After the passage of that federal law, many states and territories, including Arizona, enacted or codified state or territory-level anti-obscenity laws to augment the federal law's effects. Those laws became called Comstock laws, and Arizona's 1901 laws was its Comstock law. The Arizona Comstock law hindered Arizona women's access to abortion services until the mid twentieth century, when state and federal court decisions dismantled Comstock laws nationwide.

Subject

- Obscenity (Law)
- Abortion—Law and legislation—United States
- Abortion
- Arizona Territory
- Arizona
- Arizona, Legislative Assembly
- Birth control clinics
- Contraception
- Reproductive rights
- Comstock, Anthony, 1844-1915
- Young Men's Christian Association of the City of New York
- Arizona, Supreme Court
- New York Society for the Suppression of Vice
- United States Postal Service
- Pornography
- Advertisements

Topic

- Legal

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- The Embryo Project at Arizona State University, 1711 South Rural Road, Tempe Arizona 85287, United States

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