



## **Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Records (S0805)**

**Collection Number:** S0805

**Collection Title:** Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Records

**Dates:** 1958-1988

**Creator:** Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights

**Abstract:** The Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (MO/RCAR) was a nonprofit corporation that connected people to abortion, family planning, and counseling service providers and educated the public about reproductive rights. The collection primarily contains pro-choice flyers, brochures, and fact sheets MO/RCAR collected and distributed to the public. Also included in this collection is correspondence from and relating to the Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, the national Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, and other pro-choice organizations.

**Collection Size:** 0.5 cubic foot  
(15 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Records* (S0805); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Anne S. Cox on October 30, 1989 (Accession No. SA2934).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights can be found in the following collections:

*Reproductive Health Services, Incorporated Records (S0449)*

**Processed by:** Western Historical Manuscripts Collection staff, date unknown. Revised by Emery Cox, March 11, 2019.

**Historical Note:**

The Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (MO/RCAR) was founded in 1976 as a chapter of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights and formally incorporated in 1982. MO/RCAR's mission was to educate the public about reproductive rights and connect people to abortion and counseling service providers. They also encouraged people to contact elected officials with pro-choice opinions and vote for pro-choice candidates. NorEtta Clayton, Sylvia Hampton, and Frank Susman comprised its first board of directors, and Anne Cox served as State Coordinator from 1982 to 1989.

The history of the national organization began in 1967 when Rev. Finley Schaef and Rev. Howard Moody gathered religious officials in New York City to found the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion. The group operated via telephone and in-person meetings with rabbis and ministers to assist women considering abortions, in a time when abortion was almost entirely illegal. The Clergy Consultation Service expanded to become a national network over the next few years. In 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States legalized abortion (with some conditions) via the *Roe v. Wade* case. Soon thereafter, the once-covert Clergy Consultation Service became Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

In 1993, when the national organization changed its name to Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, MO/RCAR changed its name to Missouri Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice ("MORCRC"). MORCRC left the national group in 2008 and again changed its name, this time to Faith Aloud. The corporation failed to file an annual report with the state, leading to its administrative dissolution in December 2012 (a related nonprofit, Faith Aloud Fund, dissolved in 2015). All-Options, a California-based counseling service, took over the clergy consultation program from Faith Aloud in 2015.

**Arrangement:**

The collection's original order has been maintained.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Records contains incorporation documents, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and subject files, relating to MO/RCAR's mission to educate the public about reproductive rights and connect people to abortion and counseling service providers. The bulk of the collection contains pro-choice flyers, brochures, and fact sheets collected and distributed to the public by MO/RCAR. Materials of interest include Planned Parenthood's rebuttal to the 1984 anti-abortion documentary film *The Silent Scream*, as well as the national Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights' fact files on pro-choice religious denominations in the United States. The arrangement of the collection begins with MO/RCAR's founding documents, followed by correspondence and subject files, which include materials on Planned Parenthood. The collection does not contain materials about Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights name changes, its disaffiliation with the national group, or its dissolution. The materials in this collection date from 1958 to 1988.

**Container List:**

- f. 1               Incorporation documents, 1982
- f. 2               Correspondence, 1978-1988
- f. 3               *Missouri RCAR Liberty Letter*, 1984-1988
- f. 4               Materials related to the abortion debate, collected by Missouri  
                    Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, 1970-1986
- f. 5               Missouri Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, 1981-1984
- f. 6               Missouri Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, memos, 1983
- f. 7-9             Newspaper and magazine clippings related to abortion, 1973-1988
- f. 10             Anti-abortion materials, 1958-1983
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