

The logo for "Cross Currents" features a stylized orange and brown graphic on the left that resembles a cross or a current. To the right of this graphic, the word "Cross" is written in a bold, brown, sans-serif font, and the word "Currents" is written below it in a similar font.

Wastebasket Babies

Three years after she left her newborn daughter, still linked to the umbilical cord and placenta, face-down in a wastebasket, a Lansing, MI, mother pled guilty to second-degree murder.

The Lansing *State Journal* and a local TV station reported that the 26-year-old mother faced more than 27 years in prison for what she did to her baby. A fair penalty for murder? Perhaps. Until we realize that not far from that mother's apartment was a licensed professional who would have been paid to dispose of her baby.

Four years after that Michigan mother trashed her newborn, residents of a Houston-area apartment found an infant abandoned on a grassy area near their complex. The infant lay "naked in the bushes, soiled with dirt, covered with ants" but still alive, NewsFox reported.

"How could they do this to their own baby?" one neighbor exclaimed. "It's just heartless." Without doubt. But is it one whit more heartless than driving away from an abortion clinic and leaving behind one's own flesh-and-blood in giblets in a medical waste bag?

Why is one abandonment a criminal offense while the other is a constitutionally protected right?

Three years ago Reuters reported that a southern California mother buried her newborn daughter under pieces of asphalt and rubble in a crevice in a riverbed. The makeshift grave was not far from a bicycle path, so fortunately somebody heard the baby crying and summoned help.

In this case the unwanted baby survived. Deputies and paramedics who rescued her thwarted this mother's wishes. Both our law enforcement and our medical personnel pooled their efforts to save this newborn.

While most of us applaud their successful efforts, does it make one whit of sense that they would have been legally required to defend that mother's right to kill the same baby at an abortion clinic nearby?

These stories are way too common nowadays. Up in Buffalo, NY, someone who was scavenging cans in the garbage at the Botanical Gardens one Friday afternoon found instead the body of a baby in a shoebox.

According to AP, the 19-year-old mother at her arraignment was charged with second-degree murder. I don't know if she was finally convicted, but I do know that if she had paid a doctor to do it for her, the same court would have defended his right to kill the child.

Tell me what is sensible and fair about any of this.

By Gene Shelburne