

**LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR STATUTORY CONTROL OF ACCESS TO IVF SERVICES IN NIGERIA: A
PRAGMATIC PERSPECTIVE**

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ABSTRACT

In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF), one of the methods of medically assisted reproductive technology (ART), has become the procedure of choice for the infertile or those who are involuntarily childless who can afford it in Nigeria, as in other parts of the world. Many stakeholders are, however, oblivious of some legally contentious issues raised by or surrounding this procedure. Among many such issues this article focuses on whether or not grounds exist to statutorily regulate or streamline who can access or provide IVF services. Such a step may affect or impact upon expressions of constitutional or other private rights and thus must be legally justifiable. This article finds that justification, not only in the peculiarities of the science of IVF itself but also, in the protection of the best interests of the consumers and qualified providers of the procedure and more importantly children that may result from accessing the procedure. The preservation of cherished or valued legal and traditional concepts of marriage and the family may also provide some justification for control of access and overall regulation of ART.