

Live Free or Die: Press Clips
Aired on PBS' POV series in 2000

Point Of View Program Guide:

New Hampshire's "Live Free or Die" motto acquires tense contemporary meaning when abortion politics play out in a quiet New England town. In this compelling film, a local doctor's practice attracts protesters, and the community must decide between their tolerance for controversy and their commitment to individual rights. Lipschutz and Rosenblatt's powerful film shows how one doctor's actions test the values of an entire community.

Human Rights Watch Film Festival catalogue:

In a small New England town a doctor practices medicine. An OB-GYN Dr. Wayne Goldner has delivered over 2,500 babies and has been marked because he chooses to provide legal abortions. Allowing the filmmakers to follow him for an entire year Goldner contributed to making this documentary serve as a stinging indictment of the government's inability to protect citizens doing legitimate work. When first encountered Dr. Goldner is fighting a merger between two local hospitals--one Catholic--that threatens abortion services in the city on Manchester. This brings protestors who, until then, had seemed content to picket outside his offices, right to the doorstep of his home, as well as to the local junior high school where Wayne teaches a sex education class. In order to get rid of the protestors, the school board gets rid of Wayne, banning him from giving the class at school. As the film follows his fight to be reinstated, it becomes apparent that while most of the town supports abortion rights and Dr. Goldner's work, few want to confront the right-to-lifers and the controversy they bring with them.

New York Times Television Section:

A local doctor's practice attracts protesters in a scene from "Live Free or Die," about the battle between pro-and anti-abortion activists in the small town of Bedford, NH.

Time Out, NY Magazine:

Last year, in Manchester, New Hampshire, the Eliot Hospital merged with the Catholic Medical Center and Dr. Wayne Goldner got stuck in the middle. He's an obstetrician and gynecologist who performs abortions; he's also a family man. But shortly after the merger, he became the target of pro-life protesters who followed the doctor to the hospital and to a middle school where he taught sex-ed, placing pressure on his career and his life at home (he was fired from the school because the parents were disturbed by the protesters' signs, one of which read "Goldner kills babies"). This remarkable ... (film) examines the effect these events had on Goldner, who at one point turns on the television news only to see a fellow abortionist gunned down.

New York Magazine:

Not for the squeamish, Live Free or Die,... is an especially scary installment of the "P.O.V." independent film series. Filmmakers Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt spent months following the story of Dr. Wayne Goldner, a Bedford, New Hampshire, obstetrician and gynecologist whose willingness to perform abortions has made him the target of Right to Life pickets, hate mail, and threats of physical violence to his family. The angry picketers also got him dismissed from his job at a local middle school, where he was teaching a course in abstinence-based sex education. It's not that the community itself is anti-choice. But the parents are afraid that their children will be harmed in confrontations outside, and everybody else just wants the problem to move to some other town, never mind medical emergencies, the Supreme Court, common sense and common decency.