

Putting Young People in Danger

The Illinois Parental Notification of Abortion (PNA) Law and the COVID-19 Crisis





- COVID-19 has radically changed the status quo for virtually every person in the U.S.
- One way the pandemic has affected Illinois residents is by making access to reproductive health care more difficult.
- This is especially true for young people due to the PNA Law.



***PNA stands for
Parental
Notification of
Abortion**

PNA Law requires that a parent, grandparent, step-parent who lives with the minor, or legal guardian be notified before someone under age 18 has an abortion.

Youth who cannot tell an adult family member about their abortion will need **judicial bypass.**

Forced parental involvement and judicial bypass . . .

- ***Create barriers to health care***
- ***Undermine youth's ability to make important decisions about their health & lives***

What is Judicial Bypass?

Judicial bypass waives the need for a young person to notify a parent or guardian

The pandemic increases burdens on youth seeking judicial bypass.

- Attending a remote hearing with a judge over video-conference is challenging, especially for those who do not have internet or smartphone access.
- Youth who feel unsafe discussing sensitive matters at home, where they may be overheard, will struggle to get out of the house because of in-shelter restrictions.¹
- When seeking judicial bypass, youth may also struggle to find a lawyer during the pandemic, *especially* if they are unaware of services offered by the ACLU.



Did You Know?

The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) provides FREE lawyers who are trained to advocate for youth seeking judicial bypass.

▶ *More Info Here:*
bit.ly/31fXs6o

The pandemic affects pregnant people.

According to the CDC . . .



"Pregnant people have a higher risk of severe illness when infected with viruses from the same family as COVID-19 and other viral respiratory infections, such as influenza." ²

If a person is seeking to end an unwanted pregnancy, unnecessary barriers to abortion *expose them to potentially higher risks.*



COVID-19 has *not* stopped anti-abortion protesters from congregating outside of clinics, despite health warnings.³

These protesters pose a *health risk* to health care providers and patients and *increase anxiety and panic during the pandemic.*⁴

#RepealPNA

Repealing PNA would remove **at least one** of the *unnecessary, anxiety-provoking* obstacles facing youth who need abortion care.

Parental Interference



According to a 2014 study by Hasselbacher and others, youth may choose to exclude a parent when seeking abortion to . . .

"Protect their relationship with their parent, protect themselves from potentially harmful outcomes, and preserve their ability to make decisions for themselves" ⁵

Youth, especially youth with intersecting identities, fear *detachment, homelessness, and abuse.*



These harmful outcomes are exacerbated during a pandemic, which forces youth to stay at home with family members who may not support their decision.

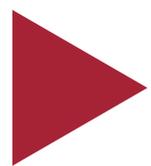
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Illinois policy should uphold Governor
Pritzker's declaration:

Reproductive health care is an
essential service for everyone,
including young people.⁶



What YOU Can Do to #RepealPNA

Build power by raising awareness.

Spread resources and infographics
about PNA and why it is harmful on your
social media.

Talk to your family and friends about the
importance of repealing PNA.

Above all, #***TrustYouth.***

Citations

- 1 <https://www.ifwhenhow.org/get-involved/strategic-initiatives-2/eliminating-barriers-young-people-abortion/>
- 2 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>
- 3 https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/5dm4ed/anti-abortion-groups-are-still-holding-protests-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak
- 4 <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/abortion-clinics-pandemic-boosts-demand-heightens-stress/2255023/>
- 5 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4202942/>
- 6 <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6816325-EO-2020-10.html>



#TrustYouth
#RepealPNA
#PNAisNotOkay