

STORIES OF CLIENTS REPRESENTED BY THE ACLU OF ILLINOIS' JUDICIAL BYPASS COORDINATION PROJECT

THE ACLU OF ILLINOIS HAS REPRESENTED HUNDREDS OF MINORS SEEKING A JUDICIAL WAIVER (“JUDICIAL BYPASS”) UNDER THE PARENTAL NOTICE OF ABORTION ACT SINCE THE LAW WENT INTO EFFECT IN 2013.

Jane Doe was 17 years old and a senior in high school. She lived with her grandmother after she was removed from her mother’s home by DCFS because her parents had abused and neglected her. Jane’s grandmother could no longer work, so Jane was responsible for paying for all the household expenses. When Jane discovered that she was pregnant and decided she wanted an abortion, she feared notifying her family would lead to further physical abuse.

Jane Doe was a 17-year-old high school student who worked part time. When Jane discovered that she was pregnant she discussed the situation with a teacher, and ultimately decided she wanted to have an abortion. But since Jane’s parents strongly opposed abortion, she was afraid that they would try to force her to continue the pregnancy, as they had done when Jane’s older sister got pregnant. She also feared that if she went through with the abortion against their wishes they would kick her out of their house.

Jane Doe was 17 years old and working as a waitress to contribute money toward household bills. She’d been accepted to a culinary program for after high school. When Jane found out that she was pregnant, she decided that having an abortion was the best option. Jane suggested to her mother that she might be pregnant and considering abortion. Jane’s mother immediately opposed the idea and threatened to kick her out of the house. Jane feared being kicked out of her home and cut off financially, so she told her mother that she was not in fact pregnant.

Jane Doe was a 16-year-old high school junior when she found out that she was pregnant. She decided that she wanted an abortion. Jane’s parents did not approve of abortion because of their religious beliefs. Jane feared that if her parents learned of her decision, they would try to stop her from having the abortion and make her continue the pregnancy. Jane knew that the mother of one of her classmates worked at her local courthouse, making it impossible for her to attend a judicial bypass hearing at that location.

Jane Doe was 17 years old and already had a 1-year-old child when she discovered that she was pregnant again. She was busy completing her senior year of high school, working 25-30 hours a week, and parenting her child. She knew that she was not ready to have another child. Jane had been living with her aunt because her mother was incarcerated, and they discussed her decision to have an abortion. However, since Jane’s aunt had never become her legal guardian she couldn’t be the one to receive notice of Jane’s abortion in order to comply with the parental notice law.

Jane Doe was a 16-year-old high school junior who planned to join the army reserves after high school to pay for college. She wanted to become a teacher, and worked at an afterschool program. When Jane found out she was pregnant, she talked with her boyfriend's mother about the situation because she knew that his mother would be supportive of whatever decision she made. However, Jane's own mother opposed abortion because of her religion, and Jane feared her decision would ruin their relationship.

Jane Doe was a 17-year-old who had graduated from high school a semester early and was working part-time to make money before leaving for college. Jane's relationship with her mother was not good, and, as a result, she had lived with her aunt for several years. When Jane discovered that she was pregnant, she discussed the situation with her aunt and decided to have an abortion. Jane's aunt had never become her legal guardian, so she was not someone allowed by the law to receive notice before Jane's abortion. Jane had little relationship with either of her parents, and she feared verbal abuse and shaming if they found out about her pregnancy.

Jane Doe was a 17-year-old senior in high school, and working approximately 20 hours a week, when she learned she was pregnant. After talking to her older sister, she concluded abortion was the best decision for her. Jane's mother previously kicked Jane's sister out of the house for getting pregnant, and she was afraid her mother would do the same thing to her.

Jane Doe was 17 years old, had graduated high school early, and was preparing to start college. When she discovered she was pregnant, she decided to have an abortion, but knew she couldn't tell her parents. When Jane's father had learned she was sexually active, he hit her and grounded her for months. Jane feared that if her parents knew about her pregnancy, they would force her to have a baby.

Jane Doe discovered she was pregnant four months before her 18th birthday. She had graduated high school a semester early and was working two jobs to make money before starting college. Jane decided she wasn't ready to be a parent and wanted an abortion. She discussed her decision with her therapist and older sister. Jane's mother was very religious, and she feared her mother would kick her out of the house if she knew that Jane was pregnant and planning to have an abortion. Jane's father was also anti-abortion, and she feared that he would cut her off financially.

Jane Doe was a 17-year-old senior in high school who got very good grades, worked part time, and was making preparations to start college. Jane was sexually assaulted after someone spiked her drink at a party, and several weeks later she discovered that she was pregnant as a result of this rape. Jane knew that she wanted to terminate the pregnancy and asked her older sister to support her through the process. Jane hadn't told her mother about being assaulted because her mother had a heart condition and she was worried about causing her mother stress that would exacerbate her condition.
