



The Facts About the Repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion in Illinois

In December of 2021, on a Friday the week before Christmas, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed legislation to repeal Illinois's Parental Notice of Abortion (PNA) law. In repealing this law, Governor Pritzker and his friends in the Illinois legislature have usurped parental rights and enabled predatory behavior.

The initial legislation to repeal PNA was put into consideration by Elgin Democrat State Representative Anna Moeller and Chicago Democrat State Senator Elgie Sims. PNA had been law since 1995 and enforced since 2013. The law protected minor girls, aged 17 and younger, by requiring that a parent or legal guardian be notified by abortion clinics when their child was seeking an abortion.

There was no requirement for parental consent, only notification. The law also included two waivers: (1) a judicial waiver for those who did not wish to inform their parents for any reason and (2) a blanket waiver for minors who attested to being physically or sexually abused.

Governor Pritzker claimed the repeal of PNA was necessary to protect girls who were victims of abuse. This was blatantly misleading as the law contained the two waivers to protect such girls. In reality, Governor Pritzker has further endangered young girls by enabling abusers to cover their crimes with abortion.

Illinois's Repealed Parental Notice of Abortion Law:

- The Parental Notice of Abortion law did not call for parental consent, only for notification and found that "notification of a family member as defined in this Act is in the best interest of an unemancipated minor."
- The General Assembly's purpose in enacting this parental notice law was stated as "to further and protect the best interests of an unemancipated minor."
- The law acknowledged that the "medical, emotional, and psychological consequences of abortion are sometimes serious and long-lasting, and immature minors often lack the ability to make fully informed choices that consider both the immediate and long-range consequences."
- The Act stated, "Parental consultation is usually in the best interest of the minor and is desirable since the capacity to become pregnant and the capacity for mature judgment concerning the wisdom of an abortion are not necessarily related."
- The law offered exemptions, including when a girl stated in writing that she was a victim of sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse by an adult family member.

- The law as written also allowed for a minor girl to go to court and seek a judicial waiver based on maturity or best interests...one of which was almost always granted.

Did you know?

- ✓ State laws demonstrate an expectation for parents and legal guardians to care for their children. Under current law, it is illegal for minors to use an indoor tanning bed, or for a minor to get a tattoo or body piercing without parental **consent**. Minors cannot vote, buy cigarettes, serve in the military or purchase lottery tickets. Parental consent forms are a necessity for any extracurricular activity at school. In Illinois, a nurse cannot give a minor an aspirin, nor can a girl get her ears pierced, without **permission** (not just notification) of a parent or guardian.
- ✓ The Illinois Supreme Court (unanimously) and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals have both ruled the law constitutional.
- ✓ Illinois Department of Public Health statistics show a decrease in abortions on minors since 2013, when 1,762 minors had an abortion, following the implementation of Illinois' Parental Notice Law in 2014, that number dropped to 1,255. The number of abortions on minors in Illinois has continued to decrease an average of 36% every year that parental notice has been in effect.

What the Repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion in Illinois Does:

- The physical and emotional health of minor girls has been disregarded in favor of the preferences of sexual predators and sex traffickers.
- Older men and sex traffickers can more easily use abortion to conceal their sexual abuse of minor girls, therefore allowing predatory and illegal behaviors to continue unchecked.
- It denies young girls the opportunity for appropriate physical or emotional counsel or care before, during, or after an abortion.
- It encourages sex-traffickers to cross into Illinois from bordering states – EVERY ONE of which requires parental notification or consent, thereby making Illinois the preferred destination for sexual predators.

Did you know?

- ✓ 32% of teen mothers between ages 15 to 17 are impregnated by men older than 20 [source: National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy].
- ✓ Women who have escaped sex trafficking universally report having had multiple abortions at the compulsion of their abusers.

What the Repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion Does NOT Do:

- It does not provide any protection or safeguards for minor girls that are given abortions.
- It does not prevent sex traffickers from obtaining abortions for their victims, the average age of which is 13 at their entry into sex trafficking.
- Laws that dismantle parental notice of abortion does not require notice of any adult, parent, guardian, or courtroom judge, to know that a minor is being given an abortion. The only adults being made aware are those profiting from said abortion.
- It does not give any additional protection to minor girls who could already be granted exemption to parental notice with a written statement of physical abuse or a judicial waiver.

Did you know?

- ✓ Medical studies have shown that brain development in minors is not complete. Science confirms that the human brain is not fully developed until age 25. This is why so many Illinois laws require parental involvement in the decisions of their minor children.
- ✓ The repeal of parental notification of abortion laws does not allow parents or guardians to have the knowledge needed to deal with the proven significant physical and psychological aftereffects, robbing minors of important safeguards for bodily and emotional health and safety.