

Parental Notice of Abortion: Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Parental Notice of Abortion Act Actually say?

“No person shall knowingly perform an abortion upon a minor or upon an incompetent person unless the physician or his or her agent has given at least 48 hours actual notice to an adult family member of the pregnant minor or incompetent person of his or her intention to perform the abortion, unless that person or his or her agent has received a written statement by a referring physician certifying that the referring physician or his or her agent has given at least 48 hours notice to an adult family member of the pregnant minor or incompetent person.” (Source: P.A. 89-18, eff. 6-1-95.)

The full law can be read here: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2103&ChapterID=59>

Wasn't the repeal of this included in the passage of the Reproductive Health Act (SB 25)?

The extreme bill (SB 25) that legalized abortion up to the moment of birth for effectively any reason did NOT explicitly repeal the law requiring minors to inform a parent. Many attorneys have suggested, though, that the new law may be a means to overturn the parental notice law in court. This is, unfortunately, a possibility if the efforts to repeal it through legislation isn't successful.

Given the makeup of the IL General Assembly won't this pass as easily as SB 25 passed?

Actually, SB 25 would likely not have passed if it explicitly included language repealing the Parental Notice of Abortion Act. Even several pro-abortion legislators were uncomfortable with the notion that a parent has no rights in even knowing if a minor daughter sought an abortion. It's hard to accept, for any reasonable parent. Therefore, at this point, the number of legislators who support the repeal is less than the number who supported SB 25. Unfortunately, the abortion lobby will be pressuring these individuals.

What's the difference between *Parental Notice* and *Parental Consent* laws?

It's pretty simple, consent = permission. Without permission, a minor girl cannot have an abortion unless in an emergency, determined by a doctor. With notification laws, minor girls can still obtain an abortion even if one or both parents do not consent. Overall, most states have laws protecting under-aged girls. In fact, 37 states require parental involvement in a minor's decision to have an abortion (21 states require parental consent only, 3 of which require both parents to consent; 11 states require parental notification only, 1 of which requires that both parents be notified; 5 states require both parental consent and notification; 8 states require the parental consent documentation to be notarized).

All of the states bordering Illinois require consent for minors seeking an abortion (except Iowa – notification).

How has the current law affected abortion rates in Illinois?

Illinois Department of Public Health statistics show a decrease in abortions by minors since 2013 (when the law went into effect), when 1,762 minors had an abortion. In 2014, that number dropped to 1,255; in 2015, 1,226; in 2016, 1,037; and in 2017, the most recent year for which data is available, 1,003.

Will this law affect just Illinois girls and parents?

Not at all. Because every bordering state has common sense consent/notice laws, if Illinois removes all restrictions or weakens the current law for minors seeking abortions, underage girls will be crossing the border into Illinois to get abortions more than ever before. Plus, sex traffickers, pimps, and abusers in other states will be using Illinois as a dumping ground for their evil actions.

What medical procedures can a minor get in Illinois without parental permission?

None. Unless in an emergency of course. A dentist won't even treat a minor without a parent/guardian permission. There aren't any elective surgical procedures that a licensed medical professional would perform on an under-aged person without permission; including tattoos and piercings. Again, the issue with abortion is coming down to *notification*, not even permission.

What organizations support and promote the repeal of the current law?

Planned Parenthood of Illinois, ACLU of Illinois, American Association of University Women, Chicago Abortion Fund, EverThrive Illinois, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, Illinois Choice Action Team, Illinois NOW, Midwest Access Project, Men4Choice, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois Personal PAC, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Women's March Illinois. (Source: Personal PAC)

What organizations support the current law and oppose its repeal?

The Catholic Church, The Catholic Conference of Illinois, Pregnancy Resource Centers, The Knights of Columbus, Illinois Citizens for Ethics, Illinois Family Institute, Illinois Right to Life, Girls' Health First, Illinois Citizens for Life, Family PAC, Pro Life Action League, and many more organizations.

What possibilities exist within a high school setting?

It's quite possible that with the passage of this repeal, along with SB 25 (which passed in 2019), your daughter can go to school, be taken to an abortion clinic by a school employee (such as a nurse), terminate the life of her baby (your grandchild), return to school, then come home...all without you even *knowing* your daughter may have even been pregnant.

This scenario is plausible and should be concerning to all parents. Keep in mind that your daughter would need your permission to get an aspirin from that same school, but wouldn't even be required, under Illinois law, to notify you to go to the abortion clinic.