

THE PROBLEMS WITH PNA: THE REALITY OF THE JUDICIAL BYPASS PROCESS

Most young people voluntarily involve a parent when they experience a pregnancy. Those who do not often have good reasons, such as fear of abuse or loss of support. Illinois law only requires parental notification if a young person seeks abortion, but not when they decide to parent or adopt.

The judicial bypass process is an alternative to forced parental notification of abortion (PNA), but it presents significant and sometimes insurmountable barriers for young people who must go through it.



Alex visits a clinic and gets counseled on all their options.



Alex takes a pregnancy test and learns they are pregnant.



Alex decides they can't involve a parent—their mother opposes abortion and they don't see their father.



Alex tries to make an abortion appointment and is told about the law requiring parental notification.



Alex finds information online about the judicial bypass hotline and calls for help.



Alex talks to a lawyer about the bypass process and prepares for the hearing before a judge.



Alex has to skip school and find a bus to attend the hearing.

Alex meets with the judge and feels ashamed to answer questions about their home life and explain why they want an abortion.



Alex feels anxious waiting for the judge to decide about the bypass.

Alex gets approval to have an abortion without parental notification and they can finally get medical care.



The delay caused by the bypass process can increase costs and limit medical options for obtaining an abortion. If a request is denied, the appeal process could result in weeks of additional delay and extra pain and stress.