

# Girls' Health First



## Repealing Parental Notification Removes an Essential Safeguard for Girls and Empowers Predators

The Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act requires one adult family member to be notified before an abortion is performed on a minor under the age of 18. (Unlike other states, consent is not required, only notification.)

- The public overwhelmingly supports commonsense parental involvement laws like current Illinois law. According to a March 2021 poll by the Tarrance Group, 72% of Illinoisians support Parental Notice, and among People of Color, support is even higher.
- Repealing parental notification allows older men and sex traffickers to use abortion to conceal evidence of their sexual abuse of minor girls.
- Illinois ranked 11th in the nation in human trafficking in 2018 (National Human Trafficking Hotline). The average age a teen enters the sex trade in the U.S. is 12-14. (Safe Space, [ncsafespace.org/human-trafficking](https://ncsafespace.org/human-trafficking))
- Pregnant teens are often being exploited by much older men. Of about 51,000 births among minor girls in California in a single year, 65% were fathered by men who were at least 20 years old. About 17,500 girls were impregnated by teen males; 25,200 by men age 20-24; and 8,300 by men 25+. **The younger the girl, the older the partner.** (Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention)
- **For girls in rare extenuating circumstances, such as victims of domestic violence, current Illinois law provides two exceptions: (1) a judicial waiver for those not wishing to inform their parents and (2) a blanket waiver for minors who attest to being abused at home. (750 ILCS 70/20-25)**
- Parents who don't know about an abortion are unable to provide appropriate aftercare for their daughters, such as extra support/ counseling, and ensuring she is not at school or a public place when the fetus is passed.
- Girls deserve to have a person who will be in their lives for a lifetime - a parent, grandparent or guardian, and not just a short-term counselor - help them make this choice.

"If my mother had had to be notified, she might have been able to find me." Dr. Brook Bello, trafficking survivor

## Put girls' safety over predators' preferences. Hands Off Parental Notice.

Girls' Health First is an initiative of concerned women and girls with diverse viewpoints that receives some support from Illinois Citizens for Ethics PAC. We seek to educate and engage on important matters pertaining to the health and safety of girls. We invite you to join with us in this mission. [www.GirlsHealthFirst.com](http://www.GirlsHealthFirst.com)