



**Jane's Due Process  
2013 Impact Report**

“My dad is a crackhead and has sold all the electronics and jewelry in our house. My mom will beat me until I miscarry if she finds out I am pregnant”

Minor from the Dallas area

## ABOUT JANE'S DUE PROCESS



As Jane's Due Process enters its fourteenth year, we continue to be the only organization ensuring legal representation for pregnant minors in Texas. Our goal is for every pregnant teen to know that she has the right to seek legal representation, to be treated with respect and sensitivity by those who work in the legal system, and to participate in legal proceedings where everyone is interested in following the law.

Texas is a safer place for pregnant teenagers because Jane's Due Process exists. Over the years we have helped thousands of girls make safe and informed choices about how and when to become a parent, guiding many of them through the obstacle course of the "judicial bypass" process.

The core of Jane's Due Process is our toll-free legal hotline and network attorney program that pairs pregnant minors with lawyers who help them pro bono. Although most clients call us for help with a judicial bypass, we also provide legal information, representation, and referrals for teens who wish to carry to term and for any other legal issue related to a client's pregnancy, such as emancipation, protective orders, and violations of the Title IX right to an equal education.

When pregnant minors call our hotline, they go through a short screening process and are then referred to a clinic for a sonogram and pregnancy options counseling. Jane's Due Process requires all clients to meet with a counselor to discuss their situation and explore all of their pregnancy options. Often, there is no other adult with whom our clients can have this important conversation. If clients still want a judicial bypass, they call back to the hotline and are put in touch with one of our network attorneys. The training and resources we provide to our network attorneys result in a 98-99% success rate in judicial bypass cases.

**"My granddaughter is pregnant and needs your help. Unfortunately, my son is incarcerated and her mother kicked her out. We don't have the money to travel, much less pay for the procedure."**

**Grandmother from West Texas**

## COALITION EFFORTS

Jane's Due Process works with a variety of organizations to reach as many minors as possible. Our relationships with Planned Parenthood, independent abortion providers, NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, the National Organization of Women, Texas Equal Access Fund, the Lilith Fund For Reproductive Equity and Fund Texas Women are vital in this regard. We also regularly receive calls for assistance from Child Protective Services, school personnel, domestic violence shelters and refugee services serving minors in US Immigration and Enforcement detention centers.

## OUTREACH

Representatives from Jane's Due Process are always willing to hit the road. This past year our staff and board traveled throughout the state to work with those who serve pregnant and sexually active teens. Members of our speakers' bureau were invited to present at gatherings of school nurses and counselors, medical students organizations, youth agency workers, law students and district and county clerk conferences. During these presentations, speakers representing Jane's Due Process discussed the legal rights of pregnant teens, particularly the issues of confidentiality, emancipation and judicial bypass.

## FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Along with individual contributions, support from the following foundations allowed us to continue our hotline and other essential services:

Art Happens/Kaleta Doolin	State Bar of Texas Litigation Section
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers	Tomblin Family Foundation
Dallas Women's Foundation Advised Fund	The Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund	Travis County Women Lawyers
Prentice Foundation	State Bar of Texas Litigation Section
Mithoff Family Charitable Foundation	Winkler Family Foundation



[Lynne Rupp (L) & Sarah Weddington (R) celebrating at Austin party]

Many thanks to supporters who opened their homes for fabulous house parties: Doug Brothers and Lynne Rupp, (Austin), Judy Shure and Jim Mattingly (Dallas) and Rita Lucido (Houston).

# JANE DOE: REASONS SHE CAN'T INVOLVE A PARENT

## OF THE CALLERS TO THE HOTLINE IN 2013

**17%** reported having experienced physical or emotional abuse from a parent  
**37%** feared being kicked out of the home or disowned for being pregnant.  
**16%** were orphans, had parents outside the country, or were unable to contact either parent.

## PREVIOUS PREGNANCIES

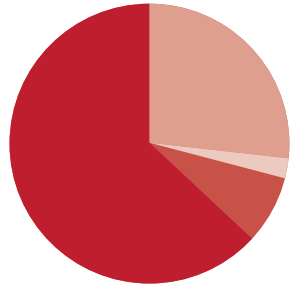
**20%** had been pregnant before.  
**16%** were already mothers supporting at least one child.

The majority of teen mothers said that their Medicaid coverage ran out three months following the birth of their children, and that they did not have money for birth control.

Among callers who were not on birth control, the top three reasons were that they believed they needed parental consent, that they could not afford it or they had recently become sexually active.

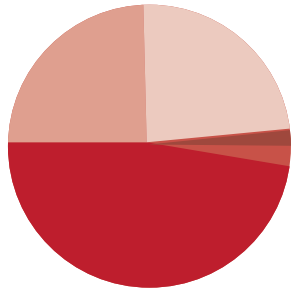
### AGE OF JANE

- 67%** were 17 years old
- 26%** were 16 years old
- 4%** were 15 years old
- 3%** were younger than 15



### RACE OR ETHNICITY OF JANE

- 32%** were Latina
- 30%** were Anglo
- 24%** were of African American
- 12%** were of Mixed, Other, or
- Unknown** descent
- 2%** were of Asian or Middle Eastern descent



## JDP PROGRAM OUTCOMES

2012 2013

Minor referred to JDP network attorney program	193	128
Minor referred to a clinic-recruited or court appointed attorney	44	53
Minor referred to explore pregnancy options – outcome unknown	107	106
Minor indicated intent to seek consent from parent	11	19
Minor indicated intent to seek consent outside of state	0	3
Minor indicated intent to seek abortion after 18th birthday	3	1
Minor indicated intent to continue pregnancy after discussing abortion option through hotline screening	9	9
Minor was emancipated and could seek services without a parent or legal guardian being notified	0	0
Minor had miscarriage before participating in judicial bypass process	2	1
<b>TOTAL MINORS SCREENED FOR SERVICES</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>321</b>

“The minor went to a crisis pregnancy center, which must have called her school. The school counselor then called her mother and told her that the minor was pregnant. The minor, who is extremely bright and plans to be a nurse, was kicked out of her home.”

JDP Attorney

# WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT



## ON VIDEOS

In the past year, hundreds of teens have watched a film especially designed for them. Our new judicial bypass video, recorded in both English and Spanish, walks a minor through the judicial bypass process and reviews the grounds on which a judge can rule in her

favor and issue a court order. Thanks to a talented UT filmmaker, we have a new video that covers our work, mission and history. The video features both Sarah Weddington and Susan Hays, two of the many talented attorneys who serve on our legal advisory board and provide pro bono services.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR TEENS & ALLIES

We continue to use this social media outlet as a way to connect to teens and those dedicated to assisting pregnant minors. Our Twitter followers have grown ten fold as we tweet in both English and Spanish. Our website is a reliable and up-to-date resource for teens. It includes information and links on family planning (Title X) clinics that provide confidential family planning service as well as the ever-changing list of abortion providers in Texas.

# COURTS RELUCTANT TO ASSIST MINORS

While most judges follow the law and avoid interjecting their personal and religious views, there are persistent problems in some courts across Texas. For example, a court-appointed guardian ad litem berated the minor for seeking a judicial bypass telling her “she should think about the loving adoptive family” she would be letting down, ignoring her expressed wish to terminate the pregnancy. Another judge routinely appoints an evangelical minister who prays over the minor in the courthouse. An East Texas grandmother, calling on behalf of the granddaughter she has raised since birth, said her local district clerk told her that there was no such thing as a judicial bypass in her county.

With these reports, we have to be vigilant in making sure the courts are providing accurate information - that judicial bypass is an option, there are no filing fees involved and they will be treated with respect if they choose to access the courts.

# THE EFFECTS OF ABORTION RESTRICTIONS ON MINORS



This year, during a special session of the Texas legislature, state lawmakers passed a new anti-abortion bill that limits abortion at 20 weeks, makes accessing the abortion pill nearly impossible, forces providers at clinics to have privileges at a local hospital, and, in 2014, will close all but the 6 clinics in the state that have the standards of an ambulatory surgical center. The effect so far has been devastating. Many clinics no longer offer the abortion pill. Since hospital privileges are a business decision

for hospitals and not about patient care, clinics in the Rio Grande Valley, Lubbock, and Beaumont have been shuttered, as no providers in those areas can get the required privileges.

Whenever access to reproductive health care is made more difficult, pregnant minors are specifically affected. They already are at a disadvantage because they may not have easy access to transportation, funding, or general health care. In places like the Rio Grande Valley, much of west Texas and east Texas where the closest clinics are now hundreds of miles away, teenagers have to wait longer - sometimes up to a month - to get an appointment to confirm pregnancy and receive the counseling necessary to go to court. These delays cost money and put minors at risk of physical abuse in their homes if they are in an already perilous situation.

## JANE'S DUE PROCESS IN THE NEWS

There has been a concerted and large-scale response to this new law. Multiple legal challenges are currently in the courts. Organizations, including Jane's Due Process, are working together to maintain up-to-date lists of which clinics are open and what services they provide. And together, this coalition of advocates for reproductive health care have worked hard to spread the word through the media about the impact of these reduction in services and closing of clinics. Jane's Due Process is among them.

Our executive director, Tina Hester, has been quoted advocating for pregnant minors in a range of publications in 2013, including The Dallas Morning News, The Texas Observer, and the San Antonio Express-News.

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Erinn Johnson-Long

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Julia Quinn

## DESIGN SERVICES

Yauss Berenji



## Jane's Due Process

P.O. BOX 685137  
AUSTIN, TX 78768-5137  
PHONE: 512-444-7891  
TOLL-FREE LEGAL HOTLINE:  
1-866-WWW-JANE (999-5263)  
JANESDUEPROCESS.ORG

JANE'S DUE PROCESS, INC. is the only organization  
ensuring legal representation for pregnant minors in Texas.