

ABOUT US

Jane's Due Process ensures legal representation for pregnant minors in Texas.

We are one of the few organizations in the country dedicated to pregnant teens and are considered a pioneer in delivering legal services to this population.



We provide legal services, referrals, and information to pregnant and parenting teens and their families. We are proud to offer free legal representation and case management to minors seeking the judicial bypass alternative to parental consent for abortion in circumstances where parental involvement is unsafe or impossible. We also provide information on emancipation, health care rights, Title IX policies for pregnant and parenting students, and Texas' family planning programs.

24/7 LEGAL HOTLINE

Our legal hotline, always answered live by trained volunteers, is available to minors seeking help at all hours of the day and night.

ATTORNEY REFERRAL NETWORK

Our statewide attorney referral network is the at the core of our mission. To make sure every pregnant minor receives unbiased, competent legal representation, we provide accredited training to attorneys and guardians ad litem across Texas. The commitment of our attorney referral network allows us to furnish skilled and compassionate legal representation to all Texas teens, always free of charge.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Prompted by the harsh legislative limits on abortion access in Texas, we now offer case management to teens seeking judicial bypass. Each minor works with our case manager, who is available to them around the clock, to arrange safe and timely care.

LEGISLATURE AND COURTS

NEW JUDICIAL BYPASS LAW

On January 1, 2016, a new judicial bypass law, HB 3994, went into effect. In an effort to curb access to the courts and increase the burden on young women who choose to terminate unintended pregnancies, the Texas legislature passed numerous restrictions on the current judicial bypass law. Teens seeking judicial bypass must now do so in their home counties, greatly risking their anonymity and falling subject to smaller court systems often unfamiliar with the process. Judges now have five business days to rule on a case, and even then, they are not required to rule. If a judge chooses not to hear a case, it is automatically denied, depriving a minor who lacks supportive or present parents of her day in court.

The law is already succeeding in its intent to drastically reduce teenagers' access to legal abortion services. By risking their anonymity, pushing them further into their pregnancies, and requiring onerous procedures to apply for the bypass, the new law effectively denies the full range of pregnancy options to minors who have been abandoned by their parents or live in unsupportive or abusive homes.

HOUSE BILL 2 & THE SUPREME COURT

If SCOTUS upholds the lower court's ruling and allows House Bill 2 to go into effect, Texas will be left with ten or fewer abortion clinics in a state with more than five million women of reproductive age. Our clients already have tremendous difficulty scheduling appointments at clinics in a timely manner and traveling the long distances to get to these appointments. More and more, we are witnessing young women delaying their pregnancies.

We're proud to have submitted a "friend of the court" brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Whole Woman's Health, outlining the challenges our clients have experienced in accessing medical care since House Bill 2 caused the number of Texas abortion clinics to drop from 41 to 19.

MEET JANE

2015 STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

37%

are not living with a parent or legal quardian

22%

would be kicked out of their home if a parent or legal quardian were notified of the pregnancy

41%

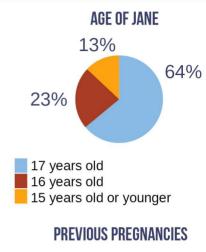
would face physical or emotional abuse if parent or legal quardian were notified of the pregnancy

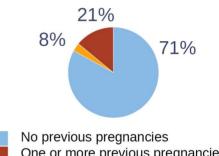
20% are de facto orphans

24%

were unable to get parental consent to obtain prescription birth control

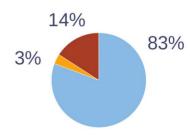
The other most common reasons that minors were not using birth control were an inability to afford the prescription or access clinics in a timely manner, a history of side effects, and a lack of knowledge about safe sex practices.





One or more previous pregnancies Pregnancy history unknown

USE OF BIRTH CONTROL



Were not using prescription birth control at the time they became pregnant Were using prescription birth contol at the time they became pregnant Use of birth control unknown

JUDICIAL BYPASS OUTCOMES

Minor referred to JDP attorney referral network	143
Minor referred to court appointed attorney	34
Minor completed hotline screening, outcome unknown	60
Minor indicated intent to seek consent from parent	14
Minor indicated intent to seek abortion services outside of state	6
MInor had false pregnancy test	13
Minor indicated intent to continue pregnancy	13
Minor miscarried before obtaining judicial bypass	4

TOTAL MINORS SCREENED FOR JUDICIAL BYPASS: 287

"This is a side of the abortion debate in Texas that few ever see up close. It is a story of despair, of struggle, but ultimately of hope. This is their story – the story of a nameless, faceless group of girls and young teens who are called simply 'the Janes."

-Christian Science Monitor Warren Richey, February 2016

EXPANDING OUR ATTORNEY NETWORK

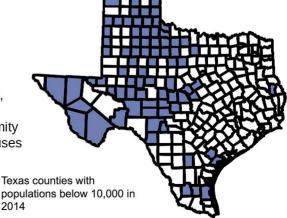
"In a perfect world, of course, having a parent involved in every instance would be ideal. Unfortunately, we live in a broken world — and HB 3994 will only add to the misery of girls from less-than-ideal homes."

-Tina Hester, Dallas Morning News op-ed, June 2015

The new judicial bypass law has only renewed our resolve and energy. Jane's Due Process will continue to provide impartial, quality legal services to pregnant minors who want to access their right to a safe, legal abortion.

Over the past few months, JDP has recruited and trained scores of new attorneys statewide to handle bypass cases. Recognizing the harmful impact that the new judicial bypass law has on pregnant minors in Texas, we've been hard at work creating training programs and facilitating bench/bar collaboration to mitigate these effects. Statewide, we've been conducting State Bar of Texas-accredited continuing legal education courses to grow our attorney referral network and assure that all attorneys are equipped to practice under the new law. We've also conducted several trainings for courthouse staff and judiciary.

Under the new law, minors must file for bypass in their home county, unless the population is below 10,000 persons. As this map indicates, minors from rural counties are now forced to risk their anonymity by going to their local courthouses (counties in white).



THANK YOU

A WORD FROM JANE

"Everything was so chaotic and scary before this. Now I know who can help me. Thank you for helping me get my abortion and for helping me feel more safe."

- Jane Doe, 16, homeless

"No one's ever listened to me like this. I can't believe what you've done for me. I don't know where I'd be without you."

- Jane Doe, 17, mother of two

"I got into college!! Thank you for helping me get here. Without you, this never would have happened. I never would have gotten out."

- Jane Doe, 17, celebrating her future out of an abusive home

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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

A is For, Anonymous, Ettinger Foundation, The Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation, Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund, Mithoff Family Charitable Foundation, Joyce J. Neville Trust Fund, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, Rachel Payne & Family, Prentice Foundation, Travis County Women Lawyers Foundation, and the Winkler Family Foundation

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From left to right: Howard and Robin Beckerman (Dallas); Ginni Mithoff with board members John Mann and Sherri Cothrun (Houston); Jake O'Hare and Anya Callahan (Austin).

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