

# Jane Is Not A Virgin

## Season 1, Ep 0: Introductions

[00:00:00]

**Veronika:** Hello, everyone. Welcome to our podcast. A new podcast called Jane is not a Virgin, a show about young people accessing abortion through the judicial bypass process in Texas. And no, we are not going to be discussing the TV show Jane the Virgin. And so I would like to start off by introducing you, you all to myself and my fellow podcast mates.

**Veronika:** My name is Veronika. You, she/her pronouns. I am a JDP advocacy leader. I am a college student and studying mechanical engineering. I am a Leo, I'm 21. And I had an abortion with the judicial bypass process at 17, and I am also a dog mom. And so, I would like to start off by introducing HK.

**HK:** Hi, name is HK Gray. I'm 20 years old. I live in North Texas and I'm a Leo, I'm a single mom. And, so my kid takes up the majority of my time. But when I'm not doing that, I'm going to college and doing work with Jane's Due Process.

**Anna:** Thanks HK. Hello everyone. My name is Anna. My pronouns are she/her and I am a Jane's Due Process, youth leader and advocacy fellow. I went through a bypass in 2018 when I was 17. And ever since then, I have been involved in JDP. I love cross-stitching going through Zillow reading and being a part of the Leo trio.

**Veronika:** Thank you, everyone for introducing yourselves. So, as you can tell, we are a group of Leos, a Leo trio, if you would like to call it. Um, and so I would like to start off this podcast by discussing the purpose of it, which is to normalize and to reduce stigma and to let people know about the laws happening and what it means for teens.

**Veronika:** And so, I would like to propose a question to my fellow podcast mates. Why is this podcast important to you and why is it important to discuss young people who need abortions in a red state, like Texas HK? Would you like to start us off?

**HK:** Yes. Thank you. Um, to me, the reason why I think this podcast is so important is because it has people who've had abortions, controlling the narrative, and I'm extremely excited for everything we're going to do the highlight abortion stories, upcoming bills and legislation, and how this legislation has real effects on real people.

**Anna:** I totally agree with you, HK. I believe that this podcast is extremely important and unique because of how diverse we are as a group and how we were all young folks that had went through a bypass for us to have access to a safe abortion.

**Anna:** We all have gone down this really tough road to finally get to where we are now, but our experiences were so different. And I love the fact that we can all talk about it here. Our goal is to amplify youth voices. It is our bodies, our choices and our future.

**Veronika:** Thank you for that input. And, I definitely agree that we are a group of very diverse people. And yet, [00:03:00] even though we have these different backgrounds, we still went through a very similar, traumatic experience trying to seek an abortion under the judicial bypass. And so my answer to that question on why this podcast is important to me, um, it's important to me because. Uh, people often assume that young people are stupid and can't make decisions for themselves, which couldn't be further from the truth, especially in my case, because I felt that at 17, I could see my life very clearly and I could see the paths that I could take.

**Veronika:** Um, if I did decide to go through the abortion or not. Um, and so I think that perspective, um, really. Allowed me to make a very mature decision that has been the most mature decision I've ever made to this day. And so, so yeah, on that note, I would like to pass the mic to Anna, to introduce herself and to talk about who JDP is and what [00:04:00] JDP does.

**Anna:** Yes. JDP stands for Jane's Due Process. A nonprofit organization that helps young people in Texas navigate parental consent laws. So, they can confidentially access abortion and birth control. They provide free legal support one-on-one case management and stigma, free information on sexual and reproductive health.

**Veronika:** Yeah, thank you, Anna, for that Jane's Due Process is just a really great organization that helped all of us get our abortion through the judicial bypass process. And I can say for sure that if we did not have Jane's Due Process, the entire thing would have been much, much harder. Um, and so on that note, I would like to introduce HK to talk about what we do as JDP advocacy leaders at Jane's Due Process.

**HK:** So, there's a really nice fellowship that we're all a part of at Jane's Due Process. We're a group of former judicial bypass clients that have all used Jane's Due Process's services. And our main goal is to change the shitty laws that affect young people's [00:05:00] access to bodily, autonomy, and respect when it comes to making reproductive decisions.

**HK:** And, bouncing off of that... I want to kind of talk a little bit about what age judicial bypass is and what it looks like to go through that process. So, a judicial bypass is a legal process that allows a minor. To bypass their parents will consent or notification laws in their state. It is basically a court hearing between the minor, a judge and the minor's legal counsel and the requirements of the hearing aren't really defined.

**HK:** The minor, has to explain their situation and prove that they're responsible and that they don't need to bring their parents into the decision. There are no set guidelines as to what constitutes as mature and responsible, and it is entirely up to the judge's interpretation. Once the judge approves the bypass, the minor gets assigned a piece of paper that says they can now go to the clinic and consent to their own abortion.

**HK:** Okay. I want to talk a little bit about what is the difference between parents will consent and parents will notification [00:06:00] laws. So with parents will notification the minor is required to notify their parents, but their consent doesn't matter. They don't have to get their consent from their parents.

**HK:** Parents will consent requires the written approval of one or both parents, and sometimes in different states, one of the parents or both parents has to actually go to the clinic to give that consent. If they're unable to get this consent and they'll be unable to get an abortion, despite their parents knowing about the decision to get an abortion.

**Anna:** HK, thank you for the information. So we know that Texas is a consent state and not a notification state, which is awful. But with that, I'll be closing us out with a question of the week. As soon as by this Wednesday, there'll be a vote for a six week abortion ban bill introduced in the Texas legislature. I believe that the six week ban is extremely dangerous, but I wonder how you all felt about it?

**Veronika:** Yeah, thanks. Anna would love to add to that. Um, I think it's important to realize why these absurd bills are being introduced in the first place. [00:07:00] And it's because when these anti-choice people are proposing these bills, they're hoping that people don't care and don't take action against them, like calling their reps or submitting a public comment.

**Veronika:** And so these anti-choice people are hoping that the bill gets passed because there wasn't enough support against it. Um, which it is important that we spread awareness and we call our reps to let them know how we feel about bills like this one. Um, and by the way, there will be a tutorial on how to call your rep in the show notes.

**Veronika:** And so I would also like to talk about the barriers to getting an abortion. There are so many barriers that can extend the time it takes to get an abortion first. There are only 23 abortion clinics in Texas and only 18 of those accept JDP minors getting a judicial bypass because the clinics don't want to support JDP clients and be associated with that.

**Veronika:** And that means that for me, in my case, I was lucky to be in a city that there was an [00:08:00] abortion clinic nearby. Um, but for a lot of people that isn't the case, and some people are driving up to 30 miles one way. Can take a lot of time out of someone's day, especially if you're a minor, um, with strict parents trying to get out of the house.

**Veronika:** Um, it's just a very complicated situation on with the lack of clinics. There is also a mandatory 24 hour waiting period in between the ultrasound and the actual appointment. And all of these are strategic ways to make this abortion process longer and more difficult. And so, yeah, I would like to pass the mic over to HK now.

**HK:** Thank you, Veronika. I really, um, it really resonates with me about everything you said. I have issues with this entire bill because it's just problematic and extremely harmful. For example, this bill allows for anyone to be able to file a lawsuit when someone is found to have an abortion after the six week mark, this means that the abortion provider, the person seeking [00:09:00] an abortion, anyone who helps them access an abortion and can be sued for having an abortion or helped this person get an abortion.

**HK:** This is going to affect everyone because not only do you have to worry about the price of your abortion, you also have to worry about, um, the liability of maybe you could get sued. When I was trying to access my abortion, I had an extremely difficult time.

**HK:** I had to get an ultrasound a three times, go meet with my attorney, have the court hearing with the judge and find childcare for my child every single time. And during this time, I didn't even have reliable transportation. So it took, it took me 10, whole weeks of struggling to finally access my abortion. This means that if the six week ban was in place, I wouldn't have even been able to get my abortion. And I would have been forced to be a mother of two at the age of 17.

**Anna:** In Texas actually, um, there is a 24-hour buffer difference for when you get your sonogram and when you actually have to [00:10:00] get the procedure and they both have to be done by the same doctor. And, um, for me, when I found out that my pregnancy was beginning in, around, like at around the four to five week mark, um, and it took over a week for me to get my abortion.

**Anna:** I would not have been able to have my abortion done. And the six week ban doesn't exclude incest or rape. So it allows rapists to Sue their victims and potentially bankrupt their victims. And also the people that I've helped them such as the doctors and the people that have driven them to the clinic.

**Anna:** And also the counselors. Which is awful because they should not be. Given that power, um, clinics, uh, and courts also are open at the same time at school or working times. So it can definitely hinder many people due to financial and or time constraints to have a six week ban because of [00:11:00] just how time sensitive the procedure is.

**Anna:** I almost couldn't get my abortion because my sonogram at my five weeks was so difficult to see a clear photo of the fetus and the abortion cannot be performed with the sonogram is not very clear. That means that the six week ban could be very. Detrimental, because if there's no clear sonogram at five weeks, that means that you have to prolong your procedure and wait it out. Maybe it'll hit the six week mark. And if the bill is passed, that means that when the six week mark hits and you still don't get your abortion, that means you're at a loss.

**Veronika:** Okay, thank you, Anna for that. And that concludes our first episode. Thank you everyone for listening to our podcasts. Um, on this podcast, we want to highlight our stories as minors, seeking an abortion in Texas through the judicial bypass process.

**Veronika:** And we hope to inform whoever is listening about these outrageous bills and will be taking action. Thank you for listening. See you next time. This is the Leo trio signing off.