

Public Affairs & Advocacy Legislative Update

Young Women's Access is one of the five issues related to women's access to contraceptive information and health services in **Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access**. For the past 30 years, Illinois has been involved in appeals on parental notification. Below is a timeline on the journey through the Illinois courts and real life reasons we need to be involved and continue taking action.

March 13, 2008: Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office took action to lift the injunction on Illinois' 1995 Parental Notification law. Earlier this month, U. S. District Court Judge David Coar ruled that the 1995 Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act is unconstitutional and cannot be enforced. This ruling was a victory for the most vulnerable young women in our state and once again; they could face dangerous repercussions or could be denied critical health care if the 1995 law goes into effect.

Timeline Illinois Parental Notification

1977: The General Assembly passes the Illinois Abortion Parental Consent Act of 1977. It is found unconstitutional by the courts and is never enforced.

1983: The General Assembly passes the Illinois Parental Notification of Abortion Act of 1983. It too is found unconstitutional by the courts and is never enforced.

1995: Parental Notification Act of 1995 becomes law. A federal court orders the Act to be immediately enjoined from enforcement because the law lacks rules for the judicial bypass procedure. (The 1995 Act repealed the Parental Notification Act of 1983 and the Parental Consent of Abortion Act of 1977.)

Summer 2006: Anti-choice State's Attorney and Republican candidate for Lt. Governor, Joe Birkett works behind the scenes to influence the Illinois Supreme Court to create rules for the judicial bypass provision of the 1995 Act.

September 2006: The Illinois Supreme Court promulgates rules for the 1995 Act.

December 2006: Joe Birkett announces that he is prepared to go to court within weeks to try to revive the 1995 Act.

January 2007: Attorney General Lisa Madigan petitions the federal court to lift the injunction on the 1995 Act.

February 2007: The federal court refuses to lift the injunction. The Illinois Supreme Court sends a letter to the Attorney General indicating the court system in Illinois is ready to implement the 1995 law.

March 2007: Attorney General Madigan returns to federal court and petitions to lift the injunction.

February 2008: U.S. District Judge David Coar rules that the 1995 Parental Notification law is unconstitutional and refuses to lift the injunction.

March 2008: Attorney General Madigan's office appeals Judge Coar's ruling.

Stay involved, stay informed and stay tuned for future updates.