

Legalize Abortion For Teens:

Teens Don't Need Consent

They Need Privacy

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Becky Bell connects to my topic because she was a average teen that became pregnant at age 17, but under a state law in Indiana, minors required parental consent to obtain an abortion. Said to be unwilling to tell her parents about her pregnancy for fear of disappointing them, or go to court to receive a judicial bypass, Becky sought an illegal abortion. Within a week of the procedure, she became seriously ill and died from a massive infection. Becky relates to my topic because she was a teen that got pregnant and was denied the right to an abortion. After receiving an illegal abortion her lungs filled with fluids and she had begun to hemorrhage; she later died. If she would been able to receive a legal abortion she would probably be alive today. Teens should be able to obtain abortions without consent because teens have the right to privacy, it's their life and their decision, and teens who seek them illegally are putting themselves at risk.

Citizens don't know much about abortions and the different types of consent. There is parental consent for minors and there is also the bypass procedure. An abortion is the removal of an embryo or fetus from the uterus in order to end a pregnancy. Parental consent is when a parent has to be notified before their minor child can legally engage in certain activities such as abortions. The bypass procedure is getting a judge permission to have an abortion without telling their parents. "However, the Supreme Court struck these consent provisions down as too restrictive in *Planned Parenthood v. Danforth* in 1976. Other states reduced or eliminated public funding for abortions, which could limit a poor women's ability to procure an abortion" (Hacht and Hayes). Different states reduced and/or eliminated public funding for abortions. This made it very difficult for poor women and poor pregnant to obtain abortions. "It was in another case, involving a 17-year-old that Judge Anderson decided to appoint a lawyer to represent the fetus. The judge explained that he wanted to give the "unborn child" a "guardian ad litem to assure that the fetus had "an opportunity to have a voice, even a vicarious one, in the decision making"

(Bach). In this case the judge felt the fetus should have a lawyer so the fetus would have a voice. The examples presented proves teen should have the right to get legal abortions because they are being put endangered because they can't get them.

Teens should be able to have abortions without consent because they have rights. Teens have the right to privacy and confidentiality. Therefore, they shouldn't need to have consent to have an abortion. In the book *Teens Take It to Court: Young People Who Challenged the Law - and Changed Your Life*, Tom Jacobs writes about the law behind teenagers getting abortion in the first trimester. "A mother's right to an abortion in the first trimester doesn't depend on her calendar age. Teen and adult mothers' alike have this right" (Jacobs). Any expecting mother, teenager or adult, has the right to an abortion without parental consent within the first three months of pregnancy. This supports teenage abortions without consent because this is saying that teenagers and adult mothers have the right to an abortion without parental consent as long as it's within the first trimester. Therefore, teens should be able to get abortions with consent because asking for consent violates their right to privacy and confidentiality. In addition to consent violating teens privacy rights, it also makes it difficult for teens to obtain abortions which makes teen seek them illegal, this is unsafe. In the article "Old Enough to Choose?" published in *Scholastic Update*, David Oliver Relin writes about an Indiana teen name Becky that died as a result of an illegal abortion. Becky's father, Bill, blames the law for his daughter's death. "My daughter was denied the right to make a safe and reasonable choice on her own," he explains (Relin). Becky's father, Bill, blames the law for Becky's death. He felt his daughter was old enough to make her own decision but the law prevented her from doing that and now she's dead. Supporters agree with Becky's father. They blame the law for Becky's death. She was 17 and was denied the right to a legal abortion. So she decided to obtain an illegal abortion. And died from

it. She didn't want to hurt her parents' by telling them but her mom says, "This broke our hearts." Teens have the right to privacy and confidentiality so forcing them to get consent is a violation of her privacy. Consequently, teens should be able to have an abortion without consent because their parents would rather have their daughters alive with an abortion than die as a result of an abortion. Becky's father also believed she was old enough to make her own decision. This is an example of why teens don't need consent. Consent pushes teens to seek abortion illegally which puts them at risk. In addition to putting themselves at risk they also violate teens' constitutional rights and endanger them. In the article "Old Enough to Choose?" published in *Scholastic Update*, David Oliver Relin writes about teenagers' constitutional right to privacy. "Critics of parental-involvement laws say that they violate teenagers' constitutional right to privacy and endanger them by denying them access to fast and effective medical care" (Relin). Teenagers' have the constitutional right to their privacy and forcing them to involve their parent is violating their right to privacy. Parent consent laws are used to notify parents' before their minor child engages in certain things. But at the same time every person has equal rights to privacy and confidentiality. So, consent isn't necessary. Additionally, consent pushes teens to seek abortion illegally which put them at risk. In addition to putting themselves at risk they also violate teens' constitutional right and endanger them also asking for consent violates their right to privacy and confidentiality. So, teens shouldn't need consent to make decisions.

Teens should be able to obtain abortions without consent because it's their life and they're capable of making their own decision. Therefore, teens should have the right to make their own decision because they are old enough. So, they shouldn't need to have consent to have an abortion. In the book *Teens Take It to Court: Young People Who Challenged the Law - and Changed Your Life*, Tom Jacobs indicated that Mary was afraid to tell her parents. "Sixteen-year-

old Mary Moe was an unmarried teenager, living with her parents in Massachusetts. In October 1974, she discovered she was eight weeks pregnant. She no longer saw the father of the baby, a sixteen-year-old boy she had dated for three months. Mary decided to have an abortion. In Massachusetts it was illegal for a doctor to perform an abortion on an unmarried minor without informing and getting the permission of both parents" (Jacobs). Mary Moe was a sixteen-year-old girl who dated a boy and got pregnant. Mary decided on abortion but in the state of Massachusetts its illegal and a doctor to give an abortion to an unmarried minor without the consent of both parents. Mary wanted an abortion but it was illegal in her state because she was a unmarried minor. If there weren't parent consent laws, then she would be able to obtain her abortion without informing her parents. But she should've had the right to make her own decision because it was her baby. Teens that get pregnant and decided to have an abortion should be able to get them. But, most can't because by state laws they needed consent. Mary was afraid to get consent from her parents so she decided to get court consent. In the book *Teens Take It to Court: Young People Who Challenged the Law - and Changed Your Life*, Tom Jacobs writes about teenagers be capable of making the decision of abortion. "Although she was a minor, the Massachusetts court determined that Mary was of average intelligence, that she fully understood the court proceedings and that she was competent and emotionally capable of making the decision about her pregnancy without her parents' guidance" (Jacobs). Mary went to court and the Massachusetts court determined she was competent and capable of making the decision of abortion without involving her parents. Massachusetts had dropped the law and during that time Mary got an abortion without telling her parents. It would be better for all teens if they didn't have consent laws on abortion. Teens that get pregnant and decided to have abortion usually can't obtain them because by state laws they need consent. Although they are minors, they

should have the opportunity to prove to a court that they are competent and capable of making their own decisions without involving their parents.

Teens should be able to obtain legal abortions without consent because teens who get them illegally are putting themselves at risk. Even though Mary was a teen she was able to prove that she was competent and capable to make this decision and was able to get an abortion. Another teen named Becky was denied the right to an abortion and made a decision that took her life. In the article "Old Enough to Choose?" published in *Scholastic Update*, David Oliver Relin writes about the illegal abortion that killed a Indiana teen name Becky. "Under Indiana law, Becky - a 17-year-old minor - was required to obtain her parents' permission to have an abortion" (Relin). Becky wasn't able to get a legal abortion because parent consent laws on abortion. Becky later sought out an illegal abortion. After receiving the illegal abortion she began to hemorrhage. Her lungs filled with fluids and she later died. Teens should be able to get abortions without consent because it's their body and their baby. They should have the right to make the decision that they believe is best for them. Teens should've been able to get legal abortions without consent because it's their body and their baby. They should've had the right to make the decision that they believe is best for them. Becky was denied the right to an abortion and made a decision to get an illegal abortion and she died as a result of the decision she made. She made this decision because she was denied the right to a legal abortion. She didn't want to tell her parents she was pregnant. Most teens who get abortions have problems with communication. In a letter to the editor in the *The New York Times* called "Parental Consent Laws on Abortion Hurt Teen-Agers," the writer discusses communication after teens get abortions. "Most of the teenagers who have had abortions already do consult with their parents. For the others, unfortunately, communication cannot be legislated, and any attempt to do so will only put their health and lives

in danger.” Teens who get abortion with parental consent have better communication with their parents unlike teens who get abortions without consent and never involve nor tell their parents about their abortion. They may become antisocial. Teens who get abortions with parental consent have better relationships with other people. But other teens have problems communicating with anyone after getting an abortion without consent because they usually have an emotional stain after abortions that leave on them will cause a lot of pain and makes them live a secretive life.

Other people think teens should need parental consent to have an abortion because abortions are dangerous and can have many complications. Supporters of consent laws think parents have the right to assist their kids because there are a lot of risks involved with abortions. While other people believe they should have the opportunity to assist their child with abortions. In the article "Old Enough to Choose?" published in *Scholastic Update*, David Oliver Relin also spoke about how supporters argue that the decision to have an abortion is too serious for a minor to make on her own. "Supporters of the laws argue that the decision to have an abortion is too serious for teens to make on their own. And parents, they insist must be given the opportunity to give their children moral guidance"(Relin). Supporters think it's too big of a decision for a teen to make on their own. But people think they are old enough. They made the decision to have sex on their own and now they're old enough to make the decision they believe is better for their future and baby. Teens are old enough to give consent to sex at 16, so why aren't they old enough to make the decision of abortion. If they can make that decision without a parents' consent they're old enough to make this decision about abortion without consent. To cut a long story short, teens are able to make their own decision to have sex, so they should have to deal with the consequences and tell their parent their pregnant so they can get legal abortion. Teens should have to deal with the consequences of sex and involve their parents. Teens don't always consider

all the aspects of their decisions. This is why teens need their parents guidance. In the article "No Choice for Teen." published in *The Nation*, Amy Bach writes about a 16-year-old who goes to church and wanted an abortion but didn't consider the spiritual aspects of her abortion. "He is quite clear that demonstrating maturity in his courtroom means accepting his view of abortion." In denying consent to a 16- year-old, he wrote, "She goes to church but she testified that she had not considered the spiritual aspects of her decision" (Bach). This judge denied this teen an abortion because she testified that she didn't consider the spiritual aspects of abortion and what it meant to the church and god. This teen was denied consent because she was too immature to think about her decision. He felt she should care more about the spiritual aspect of abortion than the other aspects. She needs guidance from an adult or a parent in making her decision on abortion. So she needs parental consent. Teen have rights and they shouldn't need consent to make a decisions that they believe is best for them. Furthermore, this teenager was too immature to consider all aspects of her decision and was not capable of making the decision of her abortion on her own.

Teens have the right to privacy and confidentiality. Therefore, they shouldn't need to have consent to have an abortion. In addition to consent violating teens' privacy rights, it also makes it difficult for teens to obtain abortions which makes teen seek them illegally; this is unsafe. In addition to putting themselves at risk they also violate teens' constitutional right and endanger them. Therefore, teens should have the right to make their own decision and they are capable of making decision. Therefore, they shouldn't need to have consent to have an abortion. There was a teen named Mary, she was afraid to get consent from her parents so she decided to get court consent. Even though Mary was a teen she was able to prove that she was competent and capable to make this decision and was able to able to get an abortion. Another teen name

Becky was denied the right to an abortion and made a decision that took her life. Becky was denied the right to an abortion and made a decision to get an illegal abortion and she died as a result of the decision she made. She made this decision because she was denied the right to abortion. She didn't want to tell her parents she was pregnant. Most teens who get abortions have problems with communication. Supporters think parents have the right to assist their kids because there are a lot of risks involved with abortions. While other people believe they should have the opportunity to assist their child with abortions. Teens should have to deal with the consequences of sex and involve their parents.

The examples presented prove and support that teen should be able to get legal abortions without parental or court consent because teens should have the right to make the decision that they choose is best for them after considering all aspects of the decision they are making. Becky Bell relates to my topic because she was denied the right to an abortion because by law minors are required to have parental consent to obtain an abortions. Becky got an illegal abortion and died within a week of the procedure. I feel people should care about teenagers' abortions because a life is worth more than a paper for consent. More people should protest for the removal of parental consent law. Parents would rather have their children alive with an abortion then die as a result of it. So, the parental consent on abortion should be banned.

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