



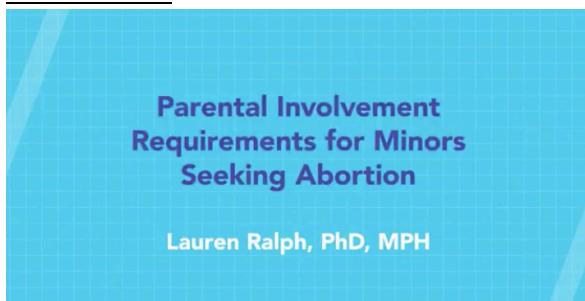
EXPLAINED: Abortion Research & Policy *Parental Involvement Laws*

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the session, learners will be able to:

- Describe the impact of parental involvement laws on a minor's experience in seeking and accessing safe abortion care.

Video Lecture:



Parental Involvement Laws

Presented by Lauren Ralph, PhD, MPH

Available at: [InnovatingEducation.org/Explained](https://innovatingeducation.org/explained)

Suggested Readings:

- Altindag O, Joyce T. [Judicial Bypass for Minors Seeking Abortions in Arkansas Versus Other States](#). *Am J Public Health*. 2017;107(8):1266-1271.
- Blum R, Resnick M, Stark T. [The impact of a parental notification law on adolescent abortion decision making](#). *Am J Public Health*. 1987; 77:619-620.
- Colman S, Joyce T. [Minors' behavioral responses to parental involvement laws: delaying abortion until age 18](#). *Perspect Sex Reprod Health*. 2009;41:119-26.
- Dennis A, Henshaw SK, Joyce T, Finer LB, Blanchard K. [The impact of laws requiring parental involvement for abortion: A literature review](#). New York, NY: Guttmacher Institute 2009.
- Hasselbacher LA, Dekleva A, Tristan S, Gilliam ML. [Factors influencing parental involvement among minors seeking an abortion: a qualitative study](#). *Am J Public Health*. 2014;104:2207-11.
- [Parental Involvement in Minors Abortion: State Policies In Brief](#). New York, NY: Guttmacher Institute; 2018.
- Ralph L, Gould H, Baker A, Foster DG. [The role of parents and partners in minors' decisions to have an abortion and anticipated coping after abortion](#). *J Adolesc Health*. 2014;54:428-34.
- Ralph L, King E, Belusa E, Foster DG, Brindis CD, Biggs MA. [The impact of a parental notification requirement on Illinois minors' access to and decision-making around abortion](#). *J Adolesc Health*. 2018; March.



Lesson Plan in a Flipped Classroom Setting *EXPLAINED: Parental Involvement Laws*

Using a flipped classroom model, this lesson plan will use the video lecture and additional resources to provide learners with an engaging learning environment. Here's [how to use this course in a "flipped-classroom"](#) at your own institution.

Teaching Points

- Parental involvement requirements vary tremendously by state, with some requiring one or both parents to give their consent before a minor can obtain an abortion and others requiring that parents be notified of the minor's decision.
- Though common in the US, parental involvement laws do not reduce the frequency of minors seeking an abortion, but instead delay and add burden to their experience in accessing care.
 - In states where these laws are in effect, minors are more likely to travel out-of-state for abortion, go before a judge to seek permission to waive the parental involvement requirement, or wait until they turn 18 in order to avoid these regulations.
 - The increase of the number of states enforcing these laws has caused the option to travel to be more limited, especially in the Midwest and South.
 - These effects have caused additional delays that push minors to seek care at later gestations, which can be more difficult to access, costlier, and, though rare, associated with an increased risk of complications.
- With or without the law, a majority of minors already involves a parent in their abortion decision, and there is no clear evidence about whether mandated involvement of parents is always positive or in the best interest of the minor.
 - Some minors who did not involve a parent in their abortion decision cited fear of abuse, fear of worsening their relationship, and a difficult family situation as reasons not to tell their parents.
 - Many feared that involving a parent would make it more difficult to follow through with the option that they felt was best for them.

Time Required

Total Time of Video Lecture: 9 minutes

Estimated Independent Prep Time Required by Learner: 30 minutes

Total Estimated Time Required for In-Classroom Activity: 30 minutes

Materials Required and Instructor Preparation

- Learners will need internet access with enough bandwidth to view streaming videos.
- The instructor should print copies of the small group activity quiz (page 4) included in this packet.

Activity

Independent Preparation (conducted by learner before in-classroom activity)

- Learners should independently view the video lecture.
- Learners may be assigned any of the relevant readings (determined by instructor's desired learner work-load) as outlined in the "Suggested Readings" section on page 1.

In-Classroom Activity (Small Group Activity)



VIDEO COMPANION GUIDE

- Divide the classroom into small groups and distribute the small group activity quiz (page 4-5). Instruct learners spend 15 minutes and work together to answer the questions provided.
- At the end of this activity, convene the class. Present the questions and have learners share their answers and discuss.
- Write the correct answers on the board for the class to see. Collect each handout from learners.
 - The instructor can reference the answer sheet on page 6.



Names _____

EXPLAINED: Parental Involvement Laws ***Small Group Activity***

In your group, answer the following questions referencing the video lecture assigned before class. Be prepared to turn in this handout at the end of class.

Questions

1. Although parental notification laws in Illinois _____ the proportion of minors who involved a parent, they _____ a parent's level of support for his or her child's pregnancy decision.
 - increased; increased
 - did not change; did not change
 - increased; did not change
 - increased; decreased
 - did not change; increased

2. List at least three reasons minors gave for not involving a parent in their abortion decision.
 - i.

 - ii.

 - iii.

3. Which of the following statements about parental involvement laws is **FALSE**?
 - Parental involvement laws have little effect on the number of minors seeking an abortion.
 - Parental notification laws did not change the proportion of minors who felt pressured by their parents into their pregnancy decision.
 - Parental involvement requirements increase the number of minors who travel out-of-state to obtain an abortion where parental involvement is not required.
 - Parental notification requirements increase the proportion of minors obtaining a second-trimester abortion.



Open-Ended Question

Over the past three decades, the number of states enforcing parental involvement requirements has risen dramatically, from just two states in 1979 to thirty-eight states today. As a result, there are now large geographic sections of the US, including the Midwest and South, where travel to another state in order to avoid a parental involvement requirement is no longer an option for young women. Considering your own state's and your neighboring states' laws regarding parental involvement, where does your state lie in terms of teen accessibility to safe abortion provision? Would it be incredibly difficult for a teenager in your state to get an abortion, or for a teenager to travel out-of-state to get an abortion?



EXPLAINED: Parental Involvement Laws

Quiz Answer Sheet

Questions and Answers

1. Although parental notification laws in Illinois _____ the proportion of minors who involved a parent, they _____ a parent's level of support for his or her child's pregnancy decision.
 - increased; increased
 - did not change; did not change
 - increased; did not change**
 - increased; decreased
 - did not change; increased

2. List at least three reasons minors gave for not involving a parent in their abortion decision.

Answer: (Other responses may also be acceptable.)

1. Fear of physical or mental abuse.
 2. Fear of worsening their relationship with their family.
 3. A difficult family situation, such as drug dependency, loss of jobs, health problems, and marital strain.
3. Which of the following statements about parental involvement laws is **FALSE**?
 - Parental involvement laws have little effect on the number of minors seeking an abortion.
 - Parental notification laws did not change the proportion of minors who felt pressured by their parents into their pregnancy decision.**
 - Parental involvement requirements increase the number of minors who travel out-of-state to obtain an abortion where parental involvement is not required.
 - Parental notification requirements increase the proportion of minors obtaining a second-trimester abortion.

Explanation: A study conducted in Illinois found that a slightly larger proportion of minors felt forced into their pregnancy decision post-parental notification law (from 71% pre law to 95% post law), citing parents as the most common source of this pressure.