



# The Justice Foundation

*Advancing Life, Liberty, and Justice*

Dear Parent (or other concerned persons):

If you are reading this letter, then you have been informed that your minor daughter is pregnant. As difficult and upsetting to you as that information may be to hear, there is hope and help for your daughter and you. Many organizations and groups, including The Justice Foundation and the organization that gave your daughter this letter, are available to help you. You are not alone and you are not the first to face this issue -- there is hope. Positive, healthy outcomes can arise from this situation.

There are important new legal rights that your minor daughter now possesses as a mother that you should know about. Your daughter is now the mother of a child in the womb. Just as you were her mother or father before she was born; she is a mother now, regardless of the circumstances.

As a mother, she has the fundamental right to direct the upbringing and education of her child. *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925). That right is hers – not anyone else’s. Although, you still have the legal duty to care for her, protect, and provide for her, she has the right to make decisions about the child in her womb, your grandchild.

You (or any other person) may not force, coerce, or pressure your daughter into having an abortion. An abortion that is forced or coerced can generate penalties and/or criminal prosecution for persons involved. Several states have laws against coerced abortion and the vast majority of states have fetal homicide laws. Fetal homicide laws prohibit any third party from murdering a baby in the womb when the mother of that child wants the baby to live. Courts have upheld these laws. See *Lawrence v. State*, 211 S.W.3d 883, 884-85 (Tex. App. – Dallas 2006). Congress also passed a fetal homicide law known as the Federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which also provides for criminal penalties when someone kills a baby in the womb against the mother’s wishes.

Even though abortion may be legal, you do not have any right to ***force, coerce, exert undue influence, or pressure*** her to have an abortion. The decision to have an abortion must be the voluntary and informed decision of the mother. Force, excessive, coercion, or duress may also subject you to reporting and prosecution for child abuse. Besides possible criminal prosecution, if you force, coerce, or exert undue pressure, then both you and the abortionist could be held liable for various civil torts, such as battery (i.e. if an abortion doctor performs a surgery without a patient’s consent), negligence, wrongful death, or other claims.

Some common examples of what would be, in our opinion, excessive coercion, force, duress, or involuntary undue influence might include one or more of the following:

1. “If you have this baby, I am kicking you out of my house.” (You do not have to support her child, but you do have to support ***her*** just as she has to support her child. The

*The Justice Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization.*

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state and other groups can assist her with her child. She also has the right to child support from the father of the child. You and/or she may be eligible for financial assistance from the state and other groups.)

2. “No more talking; I am taking you for an abortion. I have made the appointment.”

3. “You are my child, and you will do what I say. You will have to have the abortion.”

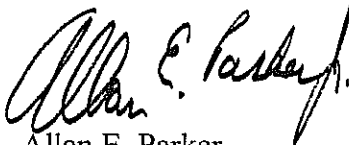
4. “I will beat you within an inch of your life, if you don’t stop this nonsense, you are not keeping this baby, and I don’t care what you think.” (Any threat or infliction of violence is unlawful.)

5. “You are grounded, cut off, and stranded, (or any other punishment) for not choosing to abort.”

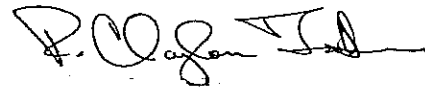
The attached resource list includes some organizations that are willing to assist you in many ways at this time of need.

As a Christian organization, we provide our services at no charge to those in need. We have heard from many women who have been forced or pressured to have abortions about the years of devastation resulting from abortion. We hope that this will be informative and helpful to both you and your daughter.

Sincerely,



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The Justice Foundation



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Kathleen Cassidy Goodman  
Lead Counsel of the Center Against Forced Abortions  
A Project of The Justice Foundation

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