

The Justice Foundation

Advancing Life, Liberty, and Justice

TO: Chief of Police and

Training Department

FROM: The Justice Foundation, San Antonio, Texas

RE: Forced Abortion - Important Training Opportunity for Law Enforcement Officers

There are many ways in which it is illegal to force a teenage girl or woman to have an abortion in Texas. Though this has been the law for many years, we have found that many people, including police and child protective services employees, do not know this. For example, though this is rare, even a government official who coerces "a minor to abort a child violates the minor's constitutionally protected freedom to choose whether to abort or bear her child." Arnold v. Bd. of Ed. of Escambia County, Alabama, 880 F. 2d 305 (11th. Cir. 1989).

The Justice Foundation, a well-known non-profit justice organization in Texas, is offering free training to all law enforcement officers in the state of Texas. Attorney General Paxton has thanked us for our "tireless work on a difficult problem known as forced or coerced abortions. Through their Center Against Forced Abortions they are making it possible for more women to know their rights regarding their ability to protect themselves and their unborn children." See attached letter.

The three most common types of forced abortions in Texas are:

- Parents or guardians using force, coercion, or undue duress against a minor teenage daughter to have an abortion (this can constitute child abuse)
- The father of the child in the womb forcing his spouse or partner to abort (this can constitute domestic violence)
- Human trafficking or prostitution where the pimp forces the woman to abort

All are unlawful, though the specific charges will vary with the circumstances and behavior. As Attorney General Ken Paxton states: "The law is clear: Texas has laws against assault, injury to a child, child abuse, kidnapping, and failure to report these crimes. All of these crimes may be predicated by forced and coerced abortion."

A legal abortion must be the fully informed, voluntary choice of the woman performed by appropriate medical personnel and she cannot be forced, coerced, put under undue duress or unduly pressured or influenced to have an abortion.

The Justice Foundation is offering a free one-hour training workshop to discuss the law regarding forced abortion and to give law enforcement officers effective, proven tools to deal with these types of situations. We can conduct this training in person on-site or via webinar. There will be time to answer questions and discuss specific instances of how to legally deal with forced abortion. If you are interested in learning more about this program or scheduling a training session, please call The Justice Foundation at 210-614-7157 or email info@txjf.org.

The Justice Foundation has already provided training to hundreds of pregnancy resource centers across the country that have dealt with this situation and has developed tools to help educate parents and medical professionals regarding this law. To access these tools, please visit our website www.txjf.org/cafa. Attached is our Dear Parent Letter and the Attorney General's letter which explain the basic law.

Advancing Life, Liberty and Justice in Him,

Allan E. Parker President

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Attachments:

- Attorney General Letter
- Dear Parent Letter