



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 this information may be, 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 to have an abortion. To do so could subject you to the criminal charge of fetal homicide (killing a baby while still in the womb) in the many states with fetal homicide laws. In other words, any third party (including a relative) who causes the baby to be killed may be guilty of fetal homicide. See, for example, *Lawrence v. State*, 211 S.W.3d 883, 884-85 (Tex. App. - Dallas 2006). You may also be prosecuted under the Federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

Even though abortion may be legal, you do not have any right to **force, coerce, exert undue influence, or pressure** your daughter to have an abortion. The United States Supreme Court makes it clear that an abortion decision by a minor must be hers, that it must be free, independent, voluntary, and non-coerced. See *Bellotti v. Baird*, 443 U.S. 622 (1979). 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, negligence, false imprisonment, 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 baby. The state and other groups may assist her with support for 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."

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

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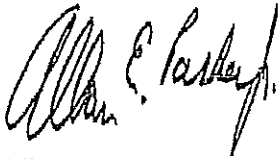
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3. "You are my child and you will do what I say. You will have to have the abortion."
4. "I will beat you within an inch of your life, if you don't stop this nonsense. You are not keeping this baby, and I don't care what you think." (Any threat or infliction of violence is unlawful.)
5. "You are grounded, cut off, and stranded, (or any other punishment) if you don't have this abortion."

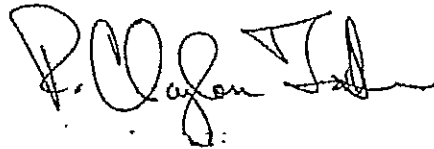
The attached resource list includes some organizations that may be able to assist you in many ways at this time of need.

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 has been helpful to you and desire that you get all the help that you need.

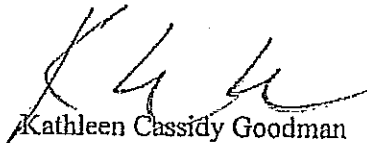
Sincerely,



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R. Clayton Trotter
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A Project of The Justice Foundation

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