Pregnant Person’s Journey

1. Person becomes pregnant; decides to end the pregnancy outside the formal health system because the pregnant person: • Cannot afford clinic-based care or take time off work; • Does not have the proper documentation or an affordable immigration status; • Community or family has experienced oppression at the hands of the medical system; • Doctor self-induced abortion is safe and effective.

2. Person seeks medical help and divulges information about the pills taken.

3. Person injects the abortion pills in the U.S. and successfully terminates the pregnancy.

4. In some states this person could face a variety of different charges, including tampering with evidence, obstruction of enforcement officials, and/or failing to report the abortion.

5. Person disposes of the products of conception.

6. A health professional learns the person self-induced abortion at home and that the abortion was successful.

7. Person seeks medical help and divulges information about the pills taken.

8. In some states the community health worker could face a variety of charges, including tampering with evidence, obstruction of enforcement officials, and/or failing to report the abortion.

9. Person offers a family member the extra abortion pills left over and tips on how to safely take abortion pills.

10. In some states the health professional could be turned into a de facto law enforcement official and could face charges for tampering with evidence, obstruction of justice, or failing to report the abortion.

11. Person offers family member the extra abortion pills left over and tips on how to safely take abortion pills, sets a timer on when to take pills, and helps to make the person feel comfortable, supported, and safe.

12. A family member accepts the pills and induces abortion at home and that the abortion was successful.

THE SIA LEGAL TEAM’S SOLUTION

1. Improve Information Relay

Expand access to reliable information on how abortion pills can safely and effectively end a pregnancy outside of the formal health system. Advocate for legally sharing this information.

2. Halt Criminalization

Develop and new innovative ways to use litigation and legislation to fight back against efforts to arrest and jail people in connection with self-induced abortions.

3. Support Self-Help Distribution

Develop cut-edge theories, strategies, and other law and policy tools for improving self-help or community-based access to abortion medications.

4. Shift Culture

Engage our legal community on self-induced abortion and build a cadre of lawyers and scholars poised to fight for self-determined abortion care.

THE PROBLEM

Number of U.S. states the Guttmacher Institute reports have laws that are extremely hostile to abortion rights

Number of years Purvi Patel could spend in jail for an alleged self-induced abortion

Cost of an early medication abortion in a U.S. abortion clinic prior to 10 weeks

Number of laws potentially violated when someone self-induces an abortion with the support of an advocate or caregiver

Cost of an FDA-approved medication commonly used as an abortifacient, when purchased through a pet pharmacy

Number of women who have been arrested or convicted in connection with self-induced abortion

Percentage of women who have been arrested or convicted in connection with self-induced abortion

Number of arrests or convictions in connection with self-induced abortion

$1.09

$504

$1.09

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