

THE PROBLEM

27

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

20

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

40

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

\$504

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

17

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

\$1.09

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

Pregnant Person's Journey

People Who Help Along the Way

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 to pass an unavoidable immigration check point;
- Community or family has experienced reproductive oppression at the hands of the medical system or medical professionals;
- Feels self-directed care is safe and empowering.

1

An abortion hotline volunteer advises the person about safe & effective ways to end a pregnancy outside of the formal health system.

2

This advocate could face a variety of different charges, including the unauthorized practice of medicine.

Pregnant person buys abortion pills online, over the counter in a foreign pharmacy, or acquires them from a friend.

3

This person could face a variety of different drug charges for importing or possessing abortion pills.

4

A doula stays with the person during the abortion, guiding 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.

In some states this advocate could face charges ranging from the unauthorized practice of medicine to violation of various abortion laws.

Pregnant person ingests the abortion pills in the U.S. and successfully terminates the pregnancy.

5

In some states this person could face charges including feticide, attempted feticide, self-abortion or attempted self-abortion.

6

A friend babysits the person's other children while they take the abortion pills.

The friend could face a variety of different charges including accomplice liability.

Person disposes of the products of conception.

7

Person could face a variety of different charges, including crimes for abuses against a corpse, disposing of fetal remains, or child neglect.

8

Community health worker helps the woman dispose of the products of conception.

In some states the community health worker could face a variety of charges including crimes for abuses against a corpse, to disposing of fetal remains, to child neglect.

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

9

While people should be encouraged to seek medical care if they are concerned for their health and should be warned of rare risks or side effect, most arrests for alleged self-induced abortion were made after someone sought medical attention.

10

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

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.

Person offers a family member the extra abortion pills left over and tips on taking it.

11

Person could a variety of drug charges and/or be charged with engaging in the unauthorized practice of medicine.

12

A family member accepts the left-over abortion pills to end their own pregnancy.

Family member could face a variety of charges for drug-related crimes, including solicitation.

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 care system by identifying mechanisms for advocates to legally share this information.

2

Halt Criminalization

Develop new and 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 cutting-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.