

# 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 in the U.S. 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 and 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.

In some states, this advocate could face charges ranging from the unauthorized practice of medicine, to inciting unlawful behavior, to violating minor-protection laws (if the pregnant person is a minor), and could possibly face tort liability if the person is harmed.

2

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

This person could face charges for importing foreign-made versions of U.S.-approved drug, possession of a dangerous substance, possession of a deadly or dangerous weapon, solicitation, and other drug-related crimes.

3

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.

This advocate could, in some states, face charges of the unauthorized practice of medicine or violations of a physician-only abortion ban, a gestational age law, a medication abortion ban, TRAP laws, as well as assault, aiding and abetting, conspiracy, child abuse, accomplice liability, as well as pre-natal injury, and wrongful death.

4

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

This person could, in some states, face charges ranging from feticide or attempted feticide, self-abortion, child and chemical endangerment, assault, or state policies that favor the rights of the fetus over the rights of the pregnant person.

5

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

In some states, the friend could be charged with accomplice liability, conspiracy, or aiding and abetting an unlawful abortion.

6

Person disposes of the products of conception.

In some states, this person could face charges ranging from concealing a birth, a death, or a dead body, to crimes for abuses against a corpse, disposing of fetal remains, child abuse, child abandonment, and/or child neglect.

7

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

The community health worker could face charges in some states that could range from concealing a birth, a death, or a dead body, to crimes for abuses against a corpse, disposing of fetal remains, child abuse, child abandonment, and/or child neglect.

8

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

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.

9

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 face charges for failing to comply with public health reporting laws requiring reporting certain types of injuries, miscarriage or child abuse or death, as well as accessory liability, tampering with evidence, and/or obstruction of justice.

10

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

This person could, in some states, face charges ranging from the unauthorized practice of medicine, telemedicine laws, and/or laws that regulate prescription drugs.

11

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

In some states, by accepting the pills, the family member could face charges for possession of a dangerous substance or a deadly or dangerous weapon, solicitation, and/or other drug-related crimes.

12

## 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.