

Frequently Asked Questions on Parental Consent for Abortion Legislation

1. **Question:** Why are you bringing legislative issues into church? Is this not disrespecting the worship area?
 - a. **Answer:** Jesus calls us to help the poor and if we don't talk about it in our church communities we have to take it to the streets. While we are called as Christians to respect those in authority over us, the government has a duty to enact laws that restrict evil (Romans 13). Currently the injustice of abortion is not restrained whatsoever. As salt of the world we must do everything possible to stand up for those who cannot. This involves working with our elected lawmakers to pass a law mandating parental consent for abortion.

Teenagers not given the support of parents in a teen pregnancy situation are in a dangerous place and need our protection. As Christians and parents it is our responsibility to protect our children. Our church communities should be responsible to stop these injustices. Will we be the Good Samaritan?
2. **Question:** If parental consent laws protect our minors and save a few unborn babies, is it not wrong to dismiss all the other babies who are not saved?
 - a. **Answer:** We are called to save the babies we can. If it is impossible for us to save 100 babies, but we can save 10, we need to do that. Right now parental consent laws will help save some unborn babies and protect our minors and will be a step in the right direction of saving many more lives. In short, by saving some we are not dismissing others. We are saving those who are right now possible to save.
3. **Question:** Why do some people have “Parental Consent for Abortion” confused with “Parents Consenting to Abortion?”
 - a. **Answer:** They don't understand that Parental Consent means that parents have a “YES” or “NO” choice to make. For example, Immunization forms parents receive from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health are called “Consent for School Age Immunization.” Parents are then instructed to Sign and Return the Immunization Consent Form even if they DO NOT want their child to receive the vaccines. The Ministry of Health wants the parents to make a “YES” or “NO” choice. “Parental Consent for Abortion” also requires a “YES” or “NO” choice.

To be clear, a parental consent for abortion law will not stop all teenage abortions. There are some parents who will say ‘yes’ to their daughter having one. But, a parental consent law will ensure that parents are involved. We have seen from other jurisdictions where parental consent laws are in place that in many instances other options are explored when the parents are part of the decision making process.
4. **Question:** What happens to minors who are in abusive homes and the best interest of the minor is not respected?
 - a. **Answer:** Unfortunately there are some homes in which abuse takes place. All parental consent laws we have seen include mechanisms whereby coercion is prohibited. For example, if a pregnant teenager is denied financial support by her parents or legal guardian due to her refusal to have an abortion, she could then be deemed emancipated for the purposes of eligibility for public assistance.

That said, the majority of parents in Saskatchewan have their children's best interest in mind and these parents and minors need to be respected and protected too.
5. **Question:** Is it true that where Parental Consent for Abortions legislation is passed that the abortion rates are reduced?
 - a. **Answer:** Yes, despite what Planned Parenthood and other abortion advocates argue, Parental Consent for Abortion legislation is effective at lowering the incidence of abortion among minors. Many studies prove this, one of which is the 2006 study which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine analyzing the parental consent law that took effect in Texas in 2000. It found that: Abortion rates fell by 11% among 15 year olds, 20% among 16 year olds, and 16% among 17 year olds. Furthermore, a survey of public health departments in neighboring states revealed that the surrounding states had similar laws, so the argument that the minors could seek abortions across state lines were not validated.