

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 08.2021-05
(A-22)**

Introduced by: Maura Quinlan, MD, ISMS Member

Subject: Parental Notification for Abortion

Referred to: Governmental Affairs Council

1 Whereas, professional organizations who care for minors agree that it is
2 imperative that adolescent patients can access safe reproductive health care, which
3 includes a trusting, confidential environment where they can access care and
4 information; and

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6 Whereas, physicians provide the best care for their adolescent patients when they
7 can provide a setting in which young women can candidly discuss their health-care
8 concerns, including their health histories and risky behaviors. These conversations are
9 best achieved when a young woman can develop a trusting relationship with her health
10 care provider; and

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12 Whereas, one-size-fits-all parental involvement mandates before a minor can
13 access abortion undermines this trust and disregards the realities of some young women,
14 especially those who come from unstable or abusive homes. Threatening physicians
15 with penalties for providing these young women confidential, compassionate care
16 undermines the patient-physician relationship; and

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18 Whereas, parents and physicians share a common goal—the health and well-
19 being of adolescent patients. Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers’
20 lives and want what is best for them. Physicians play an important role in facilitating
21 communication between a young woman and her parents, and whenever appropriate,
22 physicians encourage young women facing unintended pregnancy to involve their
23 parents. However, one-size-fits-all mandates are not the answer. For those young
24 women who cannot involve their parents, these mandates drive a wedge between them
25 and their trusted physician and can put young women who come from unstable or
26 abusive homes in harm’s way; and

27 Whereas, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is joined by
28 major professional medical organizations, including the American Medical Association,
29 the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians
30 for Adolescent Health and Medicine, in recognizing the importance of confidentiality in
31 providing health care for adolescents; and

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33 Whereas, ISMS represents the physicians in Illinois and has consistently opposed
34 legislative interference in the doctor patient relationship. The professional organizations
35 who represent the physicians who care for adolescents do not support legislation
36 requiring parental notification for minor access to abortion; therefore, be it

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38 RESOLVED, that ISMS will remain neutral on any efforts to repeal existing laws
39 or administrative rules that require parental notification for a minor’s access to abortion;
40 and be it further

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42 RESOLVED, that ISMS repeal the following policy: “ISMS supports parental
43 (or legal guardian) consent to abortions in minors. (HOD 2004; Reaffirmed 2009; Last
44 BOT Review 2010).”

References:

[Increasing Access to Abortion | ACOG](#)

[AAP affirms adolescents’ rights to confidential care when seeking abortion: policy | American Academy of Pediatrics \(aappublications.org\)](#)

Fiscal Note:

n/a

Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:

ISMS supports parental (or legal guardian) consent to abortions in minors. (HOD 2004; Reaffirmed 2009; Last BOT Review 2010)

ISMS supports abortion having appropriate informed consent, including an explanation of the benefits, risks, and alternatives to this procedure. (HOD 2004; Reaffirmed 2009; Last BOT Review 2010)

ISMS opposes all intact dilatation and extraction procedures (Partial Birth Abortion). (HOD 1997; Reaffirmed 2009; Last BOT Review 2010)

It is the policy of ISMS to support making it a criminal act to prevent or attempt to prevent access to a hospital or other medical facility. (HOD 1993; Revised 2002; Last BOT Review 2010)

The decision to perform an abortion is a medical matter to be determined by agreement between the patient and the physician. Abortions must be performed in conformance with state and federal law and current medical standards, and when so performed shall not be considered unethical. Physicians shall not be required to perform or participate in an abortion by hospital regulations or any other institutional requirement. (HOD 1980 Amended; Reaffirmed 2009; BOT Reaffirmed 2003; Last BOT Review 2010)