

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

**FILED**  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT ARKANSAS

JUN 25 2021

JAMES W. MCCORMACK, CLERK  
By:  DEPT. CLERK

LITTLE ROCK FAMILY PLANNING  
SERVICES, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LARRY JEGLEY, ET AL.,

Defendants.

CONCEPTS OF TRUTH, INC., an Arkansas  
Non-profit Corporation, and  
Dr. George Conner, III, M.D.,

Intervenors.

Case No. 4:21-CV-453-KGB

**MOTION TO INTERVENE**

COMES NOW, proposed Intervenors, Concepts of Truth, Inc. and George Conner, III, M.D., pursuant to Rule 24 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and pray for an Order of this Court permitting Intervenor Concepts of Truth, a non-profit counseling organization located in Wynne, Arkansas that provides prenatal, childbirth and neonatal counseling for women in the interest of themselves and their unborn children, and Intervenor Dr. George Conner, who is an Arkansas licensed medical practitioner in family practice in Forrest City, Arkansas, who provides pre- and post-natal medical services and as such claim an interest relating to the transactions that are the subject of this action that are the abortion practices sought to be prohibited by Act 309 of the 93rd General Assembly of the Arkansas legislature Intervention of Right under Rule 24(a), or, in the alternative Permissive Intervention under Rule 24(b) as having shared claims under a common question of law, and in support of its Motion to Intervene state and allege as follows:

1. Pursuant to Rule 24, upon timely motion, the court must permit anyone to intervene who claims an interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the action, and is so situated that disposing of the action may as a practical matter impair or impede the movant's ability to protect its interest, unless existing parties adequately represent that interest. Fed.R.Civ.P. 24(a).

2. This motion is made upon Intervenor coming into knowledge of all of the facts of the case and is, therefore, timely.

3. Under Rule 24(b), the Court may permit anyone to intervene who has a claim or defense that shares with the main action a common question of law or fact.

4. As acknowledged by Plaintiffs in their Complaint, pregnancy has "short- and long-term consequences on physical health and mental and emotional well-being. Complaint, Paragraph 49.

5. Plaintiffs further allege that in 2019, Black people made up just over 15% of Arkansas's population, but more than 46% of people who obtained abortions in Arkansas were black. Complaint, Paragraph 55.

6. Intervenor Concepts for Truth, Inc. located in Wynne, Arkansas, a community of approximately 22% Black population, is an Arkansas non-profit corporation that provides counseling, education, testing and other related services from a Christian perspective to pregnant women for the mental, physical and spiritual benefit of those women, the physical benefit of the unborn babies they carry *in utero* and for whose benefit they engage in counseling of the benefits referenced in A.C.A. § 20-16-1703 as part of the Arkansas Woman's Right-to-Know Act, A.C.A. § 20-16-1701 *et. seq.* They further provide services including medical assistance benefits

available for prenatal care, childbirth and neonatal care as well as other mandatory provisions of said Act, on availability of community or housing or other available financial assistance programs, as well as in making informed decisions about matters pertaining to the health and well-being of themselves and their unborn children targeted toward the interest, well-being, development and preservation of human life in the womb. Intervenor also provide counseling services including alternatives to the abortion provided by Plaintiffs, about details of the abortion procedure itself, the physical development of their unborn child, and the significant psychological impact associated with the abortion procedure versus live birth, see attached declaration of Mille Lace, founder and director of Intervenor Concepts of Truth, attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference.

7. Intervenor Dr. Conner is a member of the Arkansas Medical Society and owns and operates a family practice clinic in Forrest City, Arkansas, a community made up of approximately 60% African Americans. Dr. Conner provides traditional family practice medical services including pre- and post-natal medical care. Dr. Conner is intimately familiar with the physical and psychological risks of pregnancy as well as the physical and psychological impact of post-abortion trauma.

8. A prerequisite to intervention under Rule 24 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, is standing. See, *Curry v. University of Minnesota*, 167 F.3d 420, 422 (8th Cir. 1999). Article III Standing requires three things: a showing of “(1) an injury in fact which is an invasion of a legally protectible interest that is concrete, particularized, and either actual or imminent; (2) causation; and (3) redressability.” *Mausolf v. Babbitt*, 85 F.3d 1295 (8th Cir. 1996).

9. Likewise, the Court has generally “permitted plaintiffs to assert third-party rights in cases where ‘the enforcement of the challenged restriction *against the litigant* would result

indirectly in violation of third parties' rights.” *June Medical Services v. Russo*, 140 S.Ct. 2103, 2118-19, 591 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2020).

10. As a provider of pre-natal and post-natal counseling services for pregnant women in a community with high percentages of minority populations, Intervenor has more than an “abstract concern” regarding the existence of Act 309. For and on behalf of their counseling patients, and on behalf of their patients’ unborn children, Intervenor possesses a significantly protectible interest “relating to the property or transaction which is the subject of the action”<sup>1</sup> necessary to seek standing in this case. Ordinarily, “[o]nly the State may invoke regulatory measures that protect [any constitutional rights of the unborn fetus], and only the State may invoke the power of the courts when those regulatory measures are subject to challenge.” *Diamond v. Charles*, 476 U.S. 54, 67 (1986). The facts of this case are distinguishable, however, Intervenor provides services to the same demographic as Plaintiffs without activism or abortion advocacy characteristic of Plaintiffs, without regard to the unborn life that is tragically terminated as the result of services provided by Plaintiffs as is their ultimate objective.

11. As an option for care in an underserved community, through promoting his patients 14th Amendment option not to terminate a pregnancy which rights are directly affect by current Arkansas law and Plaintiffs efforts to terminate that pregnancy, and alternative to abortion including adoption and the State’s newly passed Safe Haven law, and, as alleged by Plaintiffs, in a community inordinately impacted by Act 309, Intervenor Dr. Conner will be directly and uniquely affected by the elimination of abortion, except in instances of emergency as required by Act 309, such that he will be affected significantly differently from the public at large. *See, Chiglo v. City of Preston*, 104 F.3d 185, 187-88 (8th Cir. 1997).

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<sup>1</sup> *Donaldson v. United States*, 500 U.S. 517, 531 (1971).

12. Moreover, while the State historically under *Roe* and *Casey* has been precluded from regulating abortion pre-viability, as a private actor, Intervenor are, and have been, free to counsel pregnant women on the morality of abortion beginning at conception from a spiritual perspective, the long-term psychological effects of the abortion process and realization that the killing of an unborn child is, in a majority of cases, the taking of a human life, and the acute negative societal impact of abortion especially on the Black community and, therefore, their interests are not the same as the secular interests of, and not adequately represented by, the State.

13. Intervenor hereby incorporate further argument contained in the accompanying Brief in Support filed contemporaneously herewith.

WHEREFORE, Intervenor pray for an Order of the Court pursuant to Rule 24 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, permitting the intervention of proposed Intervenor Concepts of Truth, Inc. of right, or, in the alternative, by permission for the purpose of defending the allegations of Plaintiffs including the filing of an Answer attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, and for any such other or further relief the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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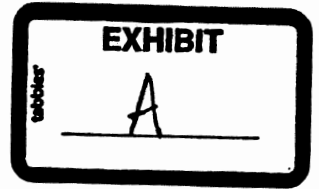
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Brief in Support of Motion to Intervene has been served this 25th day of June, 2021 on counsel for all parties through the Court's CM/ECF filing system.

Gregory F. Payne  
Gregory F. Payne



**IN THE UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT COURT EASTERN  
DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

**LITTLE ROCK FAMILY PLANNING  
SERVICES, *et al.*  
PLAINTIFFS**

**v. Case No. 4:21-cv-00453-KGB**

**LARRY JEGLEY, in his official capacity  
as Prosecuting Attorney of Pulaski  
County, *et al.*  
DEFENDANTS**

**DECLARATION OF MILLIE LACE**

I, MILLIE LACE, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18, and am the Founder and Director of the Proposed Intervenor in this case. The statements made in this Declaration are true and correct and if called upon to testify to them I would and could do so competently.

2. I am submitting this Declaration in support of Concepts of Truth, Inc.'s ("Concepts") Motion to Intervene and in support of Proposed Intervenor's Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

3. I live in Canton, Georgia. My husband, Dail, and I founded Concepts in 1998. The home office is in Wynne, Arkansas. I have been a licensed professional counselor in the State of Arkansas since 2000 with a Specialization in Supervision since 2004. I received my Master's degree in Counseling Education from Arkansas State University in 1991. I am the former President of the Arkansas Mental Health Counselors Association. I am also the former State Director of Operation Outcry and have personal

knowledge of the stories of many of the women who are a part of that organization. I have testified as an expert witness before the South Dakota Task Force of Mental Health and Abortion. During that testimony, I presented numerous excerpts from Concepts' National Helpline for Abortion Recovery (now International Helpline for Reproductive Loss and Sexual Trauma) and discussed the significant experiences I have had with women suffering tremendous physical, emotional, and psychological problems due to abortion.

4. I have attached several studies to this Declaration, including studies by David Ferguson and Priscilla Coleman, as well as excerpts of testimonies of post-abortive women (Exhibits A1, A2, and A3, respectively, incorporated herein by reference as if set out word-for-word herein) similar to those that I presented to the South Dakota Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion. The attached testimonies contain specific testimony from various women who have experienced first-hand mental, emotional, and psychological problems that arose from abortion.

5. In 1979, I became pregnant while taking an experimental drug for a tumor on my bladder. My doctor told me that I could not have the baby because having the child would severely endanger my life and that my child could be a "monster". I was twenty-five years old and seven weeks pregnant when my doctor told me that I needed to have the abortion. My doctor stated that I must have the D & C (dilation and curettage) procedure, and that I needed to have the procedure before the baby's heart started to beat. Obviously, I was deceived about the development of my child because science has unequivocally established that the heart begins to beat around five weeks gestation. Despite the fact that

my doctor told me my health was at risk due to the pregnancy, he declined to perform the abortion himself and instead sent me to an abortion facility in Little Rock, Arkansas.

6. The nurse at the facility told me that I would be fine, that it would be a quick procedure, and that there would be no pain or physical effects as a result. She could not have been further from the truth. I remember hearing the machine during the abortion, and I could not help but wonder what was happening to me. After I returned home from the abortion clinic, I felt excruciating pain and was in mental anguish. I attempted to walk, but immediately began hemorrhaging. When I went to the bathroom, more of my child's body parts came out of my body. That experience caused me both physical and psychological pain, including severe depression and deep feelings of guilt, remorse and suicidal thoughts. Physically, my abortion led to many pelvic infections, endometriosis, and ultimately, an early and unwanted hysterectomy.

7. Because of that experience and the terrible physical, emotional, and psychological problems that I endured as a result of my decision to have an abortion, I decided to do something to try to save others from similar harm. I wanted to help women avoid the serious issues that I had to endure because of that traumatic experience. My husband and I therefore founded Concepts in 1998. We founded this organization because we wanted to change hearts, minds, and decisions about abortion. We wanted to establish a place for women who are considering abortion to come and receive assistance, counseling, and resources about the true consequences of abortion and to learn about other assistance that is available. I also founded Concepts because of my desire to help those women who have had abortions to recover from the severe physical emotional, and psychological problems that can arise because of the decision to have an abortion. I thought my experience and

recovery could help other women cope and deal with the substantial issues that arise because of abortion.

8. Concepts is a non-profit Arkansas corporation whose mission is to share God's truth about life around the world providing counseling, recovery and prevention sustaining families in mental and sexual health. Concepts provides counseling, consulting and resources for pregnant women to keep their child and preserve the vital relationship between the mother and her child and to help women find healing from the psychological, emotional, and physical problems that result from abortion.

9. Concepts stands to uniquely benefit from The Act in a manner separate from the general public in that the number of clients that it sees will increase, and it will be able to further provide valuable resources to pregnant women who desire to keep their child. Women who might consider abortion will be more likely to approach Concepts for assistance if they are not able to have abortions. Concepts, because of the 24-hour helpline, is better prepared to assist these women than many other facilities because its expertise and services are focused intently on helping pregnant women who have a desire to keep their child. Concepts can explain the Arkansas Safe Haven law and adoption options, and provide maternal assistance.

10. Concepts is uniquely situated to benefit from this law based on the fact that, since 2003, it has operated the National Helpline for Abortion Recovery, (now International Helpline for Reproductive Loss and Sexual Trauma), a call center where pregnant and post-abortive women and men can receive counseling 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Through that ministry, Concepts has documented thousands of first-hand stories of women devastated by abortion, and this expertise and information can greatly assist the increased clientele that Concepts will receive because of the Act. Concepts has a significant interest in protecting the rights of these clients, and this information can assist women to avoid the irreparable injury

caused by abortion. Concepts' primary mission is to do no harm and prevent injuries to women that arise from abortion. Women can be irreparably injured by abortions if they occur. This law will stop all abortion trauma to women if allowed to go into effect. Based on my experience at Concepts and the statistics from numerous studies, irreparable injury is frequently caused by abortion.

11. One of Concepts' central purposes is to help pregnant mothers in their time of need to exercise their right to keep their children. We provide many different services, but consulting and counseling to help protect the free and informed exercise of the rights of our pregnant clients - particularly their right to maintain their relationship with the children in their wombs - is a high priority of our work. Concepts also seeks to protect and provide for the children of their clients, both those born and those yet in the womb, and to speak for those who have no voice. To that end, we counsel pregnant women on how and whether they can obtain community assistance, housing assistance, and the rights they have to obtain support for their children. Where needed and appropriate, we refer them for material assistance. One of the services we provide is the consulting and counseling we give on a variety of subjects that relate to important interests of these pregnant mothers: their interest in being able to keep their children; their interest in making an informed and voluntary decision for themselves about that interest; their interest in making an informed decision about matters pertaining to the well-being and welfare of their children; and their interest in their own health.

12. As a licensed professional counselor, Founder, and Director of Concepts, I am familiar with the services and counseling that Concepts provides to women. Upon learning that their pregnancies have been confirmed, the women are interviewed and inform the Concepts

staff of their initial thoughts and preferences about whether they intend to carry their child to full term. Concepts then provides consulting and counseling, assistance, referrals, or any other service necessary to assist the pregnant woman with the child in her womb. Concepts' consulting and counseling includes providing information about alternatives to abortion, information about the abortion procedure, information about the child in her womb, counseling on parenting, information about community assistance, and discussion about risks of the abortion procedure. Concepts relies on medical facts and information drawn from medical experts in order to ensure that all information is truthful, non-misleading and medically accurate.

13. Concepts informs women about the truth that an abortion terminates the life of a whole living human being as a matter of scientific and medical fact. One of the points Concepts addresses is that an abortion does not prevent a human being from coming into existence, but that the human being is already in existence from the moment of conception and that the procedure will terminate the life of that human being. Concepts explains that the pregnant mother has an existing relationship with her child and advises her of that fact so she can make a fully informed decision for herself. Concepts believes that a pregnant woman cannot make a truly informed decision about her pregnancy until all truthful information is shared with her and she has a meaningful understanding of the facts about her pregnancy.

14. It often becomes apparent during the consulting and counseling process that when the pregnant mothers realize that abortion involves the termination of the life of a unique and independent human being, they look at the procedure in a different light. The pregnant women no longer take the decision lightly, and for most of the women, the

factual information Concepts provides is considered of critical importance to their decision. This information often leads these pregnant women to search for other alternatives, such as adoption, in which Concepts facilitates and refers the placement of the children and has seen wonderful and positive results for both the birth mothers and the adoptive families. It also results in a woman's realizing and focusing upon the fact that she is the mother of an existing child and that she would lose something of great value to herself if she decides to have an abortion.

15. Part of Concepts' core mission is to disclose the truth about pregnancy to these mothers because of the magnitude of what is at stake for them. The exercise of a mother's right to keep her relationship with her child involves a great benefit to her, and the loss of that relationship is a grave matter that can lead to negative psychological consequences. Concepts understands the importance of this information and strives to fulfill its primary mission to disclose all truthful and relevant information to pregnant mothers. We also discuss some of the risks of abortion, and we have published materials that we give the pregnant mother with information about those risks. Among the risks Concepts discusses with its clients is the fact that an abortion places a woman at increased risk of depression, suicidal thoughts and behavior, anxiety, and serious physical health issues.

16. Concepts provides many resources to their clients, but one of the most important is a pamphlet that explains the development of a child in the mother's womb. This pamphlet informs pregnant mothers of what is occurring in the development of her child at various stages of progression. For example, Concepts has found that one of the most important facts contained in the pamphlet is the fact that the child's heart begins to beat at just five weeks' gestation. Concepts has found that the vast majority of mothers who are provided this

information understand that a living human being is developing inside of their womb, and they embrace the substantial connection that has formed between them and their child. This pamphlet also explains to the pregnant mothers that their child has all of the major organ systems and is distinctly recognizable as an individual by eleven weeks' gestation.

17. Approximately 75% of our clients initially report that they are seriously considering having an abortion. Following the counseling that Concepts provides, about 50% of all of the women who originally thought they wanted to have an abortion, change their minds or otherwise decide to carry their baby to full term and birth. Of these, more than 90% decide to keep their babies and raise them themselves. As a result, they enjoy the beauty and joy of their relationship with their children for the rest of their lives. Concepts will refer women to get medical help and local resources if it appears they need or desire further counseling or information. Concepts advises all of the women that adoption services are available, and it provides the names of the licensed agencies so they can consult with them if they wish.

18. Concepts also provides consulting and counseling for women who have had abortions. The majority of woman who seek counseling at an abortion clinic ends up having an abortion. Of the post-abortive women who seek consulting and counseling with Concepts, over 75% of the women report that they felt they were misled by the abortion clinic and that their decisions were uninformed and, in many ways, coerced. This lack of disclosure and coercive counseling only increases the likelihood that a pregnant mother will suffer significant psychological complications from terminating her pregnancy. This was certainly true of my experience. The post-abortive women commonly report that they feel depressed, that they are on anti-depressants, that they have anxiety, feelings of loneliness, numbness, feelings of anger and helplessness, flashbacks of the event, relationship problems, and that their

symptoms are a result of their decision to have an abortion. They often report seriously lower self-esteem and increased suicide ideation. Some of our clients report that they have attempted suicide because of their depression over their abortions.

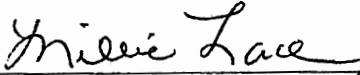
19. Given my experience with abortion and the problems that resulted from it, I can personally relate to the pain experienced by these women. Part of their problem is due to the fact that the culture in general does not legitimize the feelings of these women or properly recognize their grief and suffering. After all, most pro-abortion advocates would tell these women that we should not be grieving over "just tissue."

20. I have personally counseled women who have felt a great sense of loss after an abortion and cannot resolve it or accept the loss until they allow themselves to come out of the denial that it "wasn't a baby" by seeing fetal development pictures, ultrasounds of a subsequent child, fetal models or The Thomas Aaron story on video, which is available at <http://youtu.be/GvQ3bwI39mg>. These women then go through a "normal grief" process. One woman I counseled was 84, and she had had an abortion in her 20's. She experienced prolonged grief for 60 years. She said she just wanted to be able to tell her story. As a professional counselor, I call it "disenfranchised grief," meaning grief that is not allowed either by the culture or by the individual because it would be too painful if she allowed herself to grieve. Therefore, the grief is unresolved, or else is Complicated Grief, which occurs when the individual prolongs the acceptance of the loss. As Dr. Andreas Maercker, M.D., Ph.D. from the Division of Psychopathology and Clinical Intervention, University of Zurich, Switzerland when explaining considerations for Prolonged Grief Disorder (PGD) to be included in the DSM V (Diagnostic

Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders) for publication in May of 2013, writes: "One easily accessible indicator is to listen to clients or patients. Self-statements such as 'I fear I will go crazy if I fully realize the death of my loved one' is very specific to Complicated Grief." The research also states that treatment for prolonged grief is similar to that used for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder ("PTSD") because patients tend to imagine the scene vividly and re-experience the event.

21. Over the years I have heard from hundreds of women who have had difficulty around anniversary dates of their abortions by having dreams where they re-experience the event. One woman had continual dreams of seeing the face of her baby in the womb. Women are told that they should be able to submit to getting rid of "tissue" and go happily about their life thinking the abortion made their life better. When it becomes clear that in fact the abortion made their lives far worse than the life-giving alternatives, most often the women feel that they have no outlet to express their feelings, emotions, or regrets, especially when suffering from prolonged grief over the loss of another human individual that can continue for a lifetime. This is a large part of why I founded Concepts, and helping these women is part of its core mission and primary purpose.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. I executed this Declaration on 24th day of June, 2021.

 MSE, LPC-S, BCTMHC  
MILLIE LACE, MSE, LPC-S, BCTMHC  
Founder and Director  
Concepts of Truth, Inc.

# Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry

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## Does abortion reduce the mental health risks of unwanted or unintended pregnancy? A re-appraisal of the evidence

David M Fergusson, L John Horwood and Joseph M Boden

*Aust N Z J Psychiatry* published online 3 April 2013

DOI: 10.1177/0004867413484597

The online version of this article can be found at:

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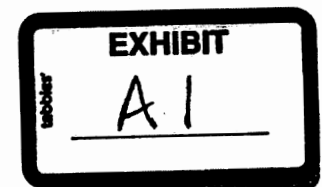
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What is This?



Review

**ANZJP**

# Does abortion reduce the mental health risks of unwanted or unintended pregnancy? A re-appraisal of the evidence

Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry  
00(0) 1–9  
DOI: 10.1177/0004867413484597

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David M Fergusson, L John Horwood and Joseph M Boden

## Abstract

**Objective:** There have been debates about the linkages between abortion and mental health. Few reviews have considered the extent to which abortion has therapeutic benefits that mitigate the mental health risks of abortion. The aim of this review was to conduct a re-appraisal of the evidence to examine the research hypothesis that abortion reduces rates of mental health problems in women having unwanted or unintended pregnancy.

**Methods:** Analysis of recent reviews (Coleman, 2011; National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011) identified eight publications reporting 14 adjusted odds ratios (AORs) spanning five outcome domains: anxiety; depression; alcohol misuse; illicit drug use/misuse; and suicidal behaviour. For each outcome, pooled AORs were estimated using a random-effects model.

**Results:** There was consistent evidence to show that abortion was not associated with a reduction in rates of mental health problems ( $p > 0.75$ ). Abortion was associated with small to moderate increases in risks of anxiety (AOR 1.28, 95% CI 0.97–1.70;  $p < 0.08$ ), alcohol misuse (AOR 2.34, 95% CI 1.05–5.21;  $p < 0.05$ ), illicit drug use/misuse (AOR 3.91, 95% CI 1.13–13.55;  $p < 0.05$ ), and suicidal behaviour (AOR 1.69, 95% CI 1.12–2.54;  $p < 0.01$ ).

**Conclusions:** There is no available evidence to suggest that abortion has therapeutic effects in reducing the mental health risks of unwanted or unintended pregnancy. There is suggestive evidence that abortion may be associated with small to moderate increases in risks of some mental health problems.

## Keywords

Abortion, mental health, review

## Introduction

Recently there have been strong debates about the relationships between termination of pregnancy (abortion) and mental health (for reviews, see Bradshaw and Slade, 2003; Charles et al., 2008; Coleman, 2005, 2011; American Psychological Association, 2008). These debates have been stimulated by two major reviews of this topic which reached markedly different conclusions. Specifically, in a meta-analysis of 22 studies examining the linkages between abortion and mental health, Coleman (2011) found that abortion was associated with increased risks of mental health problems with these findings being evident for studies using different comparison groups. Coleman concluded "... the results revealed a moderate to highly increased risk of mental health problems after abortion" (p. 180). In contrast, a systematic review of the evidence prepared for the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AMRC) by the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (2011)

concluded that, when variations in study design and study quality were taken into account, "The rates of mental health problems for women with unwanted pregnancy were the same whether they had an abortion or gave birth" (p. 8).

Following the publication of both reviews, there have been extensive criticisms of both Coleman's study (Abel et al., 2011; Coyne, 2011; Howard et al., 2011; Kinney, 2011; Lagro-Janssen et al., 2011; Littell and Coyne, 2011; Polis et al., 2011; Robinson et al., 2011; Thygesen, 2011)

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and the AMRC report (Andrusko, 2011; Christian Medical Fellowship, 2011; Ertelt, 2011). Despite the apparently contradictory findings of these reviews both appear to be in agreement on one point: there is no evidence to suggest that the provision of abortion mitigates the mental health effects of unwanted pregnancy. The AMRC review concludes that there were little if any effects of abortion on mental health, whereas the Coleman analysis suggests that abortion may have harmful effects on mental health.

However, both studies fail to provide a formal review of the therapeutic benefits of abortion. More generally, there has been a dearth of discussion about the mental health benefits of abortion in all existing major reviews, including the 2008 review by the American Psychological Association (2008) and the review by Charles et al. (2008). In all cases, reviews have focussed on the issue of the extent to which abortion has iatrogenic effects which result in increases in mental health problems in women having abortion when compared with equivalent groups of women coming to term with an unwanted or unintended pregnancy.

However, addressing the issue of whether abortion has beneficial consequences for the mental health of women having unwanted or unintended pregnancy is central to the appraisal of both clinical practice and the interpretation of the law in those jurisdictions which require that access to legal abortion is authorized by registered medical practitioners. These jurisdictions include England, Wales, Scotland, and New Zealand (1967, 1977) and some states of Australia (Cica, 1998). Legislation was passed in the 1960s and 1970s in these jurisdictions which gave women access to legal abortion provided that the abortion was authorized by two medical practitioners on medical grounds. In these societies over 90% of all abortions are currently authorized on the grounds that continuation of the pregnancy would pose a serious threat to the woman's mental health (Statistics New Zealand, 2003; South Australian Abortion Reporting Committee, 2008; Department of Health, 2011). Given the high frequency with which mental health grounds are used in these jurisdictions to authorize abortion, it becomes important for both clinical and legislative reasons to examine the evidence on the extent to which abortion has therapeutic benefits that mitigate any mental health effects of unwanted pregnancy.

Under ideal circumstances it would be desirable to examine this issue using randomized controlled trials of the effectiveness of abortion in mitigating any adverse mental health effects of unwanted pregnancy. However, such trials are currently ethically and practically impossible to conduct. Under these circumstances, data from observational studies may be used to examine this hypothesis. In particular, if abortion has the therapeutic benefits that have been ascribed to the practice, one would expect to find that rates of mental health problems amongst those having abortion were lower than those in an equivalent series of women coming to term with unwanted or unintended pregnancy.

In this paper we present a re-analysis and re-appraisal of data from 14 analyses reviewed by the Coleman review, the AMRC review, or both. In these analyses, the mental health outcomes of women having abortion were compared to control series of women having unwanted or unintended pregnancy coming to term, with these comparisons being controlled for a number of potentially confounding covariates. The 14 analyses examined five mental health outcomes: anxiety, depression, alcohol misuse, illicit drug use/misuse, and suicidal behaviour. The re-analysis and re-appraisal of these findings has the explicit aim of addressing the question of whether this research provides any evidence that would support the conclusion that abortion has beneficial consequences which mitigate the mental health risks of unwanted or unintended pregnancy.

## Methods

### Data extraction

The studies examined in this re-appraisal of the evidence are based on a series of analyses included in the reviews by Coleman (2011) and the AMRC (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011). These were all studies in which comparisons were made between a group of women exposed to abortion and a control series of women coming to term with unintended/unwanted pregnancy. This process identified a series of 14 analyses based on four studies and summarized in eight publications, with these studies examining five mental health outcomes: anxiety, depression, alcohol misuse, illicit drug use/misuse, and suicidal behaviour. Table 1 provides a summary and overview of the eight publications upon which this re-appraisal of the evidence is based. This summary includes information on sample sizes, the assessment of the control group, outcomes measured, control factors employed in each study, and assessment of study quality.

Of the analyses summarized in Table 1, all were included in the Coleman review (2011) but a number of these publications were not included in the AMRC review (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011). These publications were Reardon and Coughle (2002), Reardon et al. (2004), Schmiede and Russo (2005), and Coleman (2006). The reason for these studies being excluded from the AMRC review was that these studies provided inadequate control of pre-existing mental health outcomes prior to pregnancy. For all studies estimates of adjusted odds ratios (AORs) and 95% confidence intervals were abstracted from the original reviews and cross-checked with the original studies. In all cases, AORs were scored so that an AOR <1 implied that rates of mental health problems were lower in those having an abortion. The Fergusson et al. (2008) data were re-analysed to produce estimates of the AORs for the direct comparison between the unwanted pregnancy and abortion groups after adjustment for covariates.

**Table 1.** Description of studies.

Study	Study design	Country	Year of publication	Study quality
Fergusson et al. (2008)	Longitudinal	Australia	2008	Good
Gilchrist et al. (1995)	Longitudinal	Australia	1995	Good
Cougle et al. (2005)	Longitudinal	USA	2005	Fair
Steinberg and Russo (2008)	Longitudinal	USA	2008	Fair
AMRC review (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011)	Review	International	2011	Good
Schulze and Russo (2005)	Longitudinal	USA	2005	Fair
CHDS (Christchurch Health and Development Study)	Longitudinal	New Zealand	1977-2003	Good
NLSY (National Longitudinal Study of Youth)	Longitudinal	USA	1997-2002	Good
NSFG (National Survey of Family Growth)	Longitudinal	USA	1995-2002	Good

Index of study quality is as classified in AMRC review (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011).

\*Analysis of Fergusson et al. (2008) has been updated in this review to provide direct comparisons of the abortion and unwanted pregnancy groups.

†Was not included in AMRC review due to lack of pre-abortion mental health data (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011).

CHDS, Christchurch Health and Development Study; NLSY, National Longitudinal Study of Youth; NSFG, National Survey of Family Growth.

### Assessment of study quality

Table 1 also includes assessments of study quality derived from the ratings given in Table 18 in the AMRC review. These ratings were based on a modified version of the review criteria used by Charles et al. (2008). These criteria considered six study features: appropriate comparison group, validated mental health tools, previous mental health problems, confounder control, sample representativeness, and comprehensive data exploration. These criteria were used to rank studies into six quality groups ranging from "very poor" to "excellent". Of the studies subject to this review, one (Fergusson et al., 2008) was described as "very

good", one (Gilchrist et al., 1995) was described as "good", two studies (Cougle et al., 2005; Steinberg and Russo, 2008) were classified as "fair", and four were not included in the AMRC review because of concerns about study quality.

### Data analysis and hypothesis testing

The analyses from the studies described in Table 1 were classified into five outcome domains: anxiety, depression, alcohol misuse, illicit drug use/misuse, and suicidal behaviours. Each domain contained at least two odds ratios from independent analyses. To increase the precision of the

re-appraisal, pooled odds were estimated for each domain. In this analysis, we have not combined the pooled estimates for different outcomes to produce an estimate of the overall increase or decrease in mental health problems for women having abortion. The principal reason for this decision was that the data came from overlapping and non-independent analyses using data derived from four studies. The non-independence of the pooled estimates poses complex problems for combining these estimates to produce an estimate of the overall association between abortion and mental health outcomes.

The selected ORs for each outcome domain were first log transformed and then pooled using a weighted average of the study specific effects. Pooling was initially conducted using a random-effects model of the form: Pooled  $B = \sum_j w_j B_j / \sum_j w_j$ , where  $B_j = \ln(OR_j)$  is the natural logarithm of the OR for study  $j$ ;  $w_j = 1/(s_j^2 + I^2)$  is a study-specific weight representing the estimated inverse variance of the study specific parameter  $B_j$  under a random-effects model;  $s_j^2$  is the estimated sample specific variance of  $B_j$ , and  $I^2$  is an estimator of between studies variance derived using the general method of moments (DerSimonian and Kacker, 2007). The standard error of the pooled parameter was given by  $SE(B) = 1/(\sum_j w_j)^{1/2}$ . The pooled OR and corresponding 95% CI were calculated in the usual manner by exponentiation,  $\exp(B \pm 1.96 SE(B))$ . To avoid the pooling of non-independent results in the situation where two studies in a given outcome domain reported AORs based on analysis of essentially the same data set, the pooled results were calculated using only the study reporting the lowest AOR. This follows the practice in the AMRC review (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011).

The meta-analysis for each domain was checked for between study heterogeneity using Cochran's Q test (Huedo-Medina et al., 2006). In all cases there was no evidence of significant between study heterogeneity, suggesting that fixed-effects models were adequate for pooling the data. However, because the Q test can lack statistical power to detect true between-study heterogeneity when the meta-analysis includes only a small number of studies (Huedo-Medina et al., 2006), the reported findings were based on the random-effects analyses. Comparison of pooled estimates from fixed-effects and random-effects models showed these to be very similar suggesting that the choice of estimation method was not critical.

To test for beneficial effects of abortion, in all cases one-tailed tests of the research hypothesis  $AOR_i < 1$  were conducted, where  $AOR_i$  is the pooled odds ratio for the  $i$ th outcome domain. For completeness, the analysis also included the results of conventional two-tailed tests of significance of the pooled  $AOR_i$ .

To ensure a complete coverage of the limited literature on this topic, in the first stage of the analysis, all studies were considered in the review (Table 1). To control for study quality, the data were re-analysed using: (a) all studies rated fair or better by the AMRC review; and (b) those studies

rated as good or very good by the AMRC review (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011).

## Results

### *AORs for the linkages between abortion and mental health outcomes*

Table 2 shows estimates of the AORs between abortion and the mental health outcomes reported in eight papers based on four studies. Results are grouped into five outcome domains and for each domain an estimate of the pooled AOR and confidence interval is given. The table reports the probability level associated with the test of the one-tailed hypothesis  $AOR < 1$  ( $p1$ ) and the conventional two-tailed test of association ( $p2$ ). Inspection of Table 2 yields the following conclusions:

1. Anxiety: Three studies report estimates of association between abortion and anxiety, with two studies (Cogle et al., 2005; Steinberg and Russo, 2008) being analyses of the same data. Observed AORs ranged from 1.24 to 1.82, with the pooled AOR being 1.28 (95% CI 0.97–1.70;  $p2 < 0.10$ ). The one-tailed test of the hypothesis of beneficial effects of abortion shows that this hypothesis is not supported by the evidence ( $p1 > 0.95$ ).
2. Depression: Three studies report estimates of the association between abortion and depression with two studies being analyses of the same data (Reardon and Cogle, 2002; Schmiede and Russo, 2005). Observed AORs ranged from 0.79 to 1.54, with the pooled AOR being 1.13 (95% CI 0.83–1.55;  $p2 > 0.40$ ). The one-tailed test of the hypothesis of beneficial effects of abortion shows that this hypothesis is not supported by the evidence ( $p1 > 0.70$ ).
3. Alcohol misuse: Three studies reported estimates of the association between abortion and alcohol misuse. Observed AORs ranged from 7.10 to 1.72, with the pooled AOR being 2.34 (95% CI 1.05–5.21;  $p2 < 0.05$ ). The one-tailed hypothesis of beneficial effects of abortion shows that this hypothesis is not supported by the evidence ( $p1 > 0.98$ ).
4. Illicit drug use/misuse: Three studies report estimates of the association between abortion and illicit drug use/misuse. Observed AORs ranged from 13.20 to 2.00, with the pooled AOR being 3.91 (95% CI 1.13–13.55;  $p2 < 0.05$ ). The one-tailed test of beneficial effects of abortion shows that this hypothesis is not supported by the evidence ( $p1 > 0.98$ ).
5. Suicidal behaviour: Two studies report estimates of the association between abortion and suicidal behaviour. Observed AORs ranged from 1.58 to 1.70, with the pooled AOR being 1.69 (95% CI 1.12–2.54;  $p2 < 0.01$ ). The one-tailed test of beneficial effects of abortion shows that this hypothesis is not supported by the evidence ( $p1 > 0.99$ ).

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<sup>b</sup>Pooled result based on Schmiede and Russo (2005) and Fergusson et al. (2008).

1. Limiting the analysis to studies included in the AMRC review. This resulted in the exclusion of the studies based on the NLSY (Reardon and Cougle, 2002; Reardon et al., 2004; Schmiede and Russo, 2005; Coleman, 2006). This reduced the analysis to

2. The analysis was then restricted to the studies rated as good or very good in the AMRC report (National

Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011). These studies reported a single common outcome of suicidal behaviour, with a pooled AOR of 1.69 (95% CI 1.12–2.54;  $p > 0.09$ ;  $p_2 < 0.01$ ). This finding does not support the hypothesis of beneficial effects ( $p > 0.99$ ) but is consistent with the conclusion that abortion may be associated with modest increases in risks of suicidal behaviours.

3. Finally, the AMRC review (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011) also reported a re-analysis of the Gilchrist et al. (1995) study in which they compared the outcomes of those refused abortion for an unwanted pregnancy with the outcomes of those given an abortion. These estimates were available for suicidal behaviours. Combining these results with the findings from Fergusson et al. (2008) yielded an AOR of 0.95 (95% CI 0.36–2.51). The one-tailed test of the positive effects of abortion was non-significant ( $p > 0.90$ ).

### Summary

For all analyses considered, there was no evidence to suggest that rates of mental health problems were lower in women having abortion than in comparison groups of women having unwanted pregnancy. This conclusion held for all studies, all authors, and all outcomes considered, irrespective of variations in study quality using the standards applied in the AMRC review (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011).

There was suggestive but not completely consistent evidence of modestly elevated rates of mental health problems in women having abortion compared with women having unwanted or unintended pregnancy. These findings were particularly evident for alcohol and illicit drug use but were also evident for anxiety disorders and suicidal behaviours for analyses using an unwanted or unintended comparison. These findings were not observed in AMRC analyses (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011) which used those who were refused abortion in the Gilchrist et al. (1995) study as a comparison group.

### Discussion

In this paper, we have conducted a re-appraisal of the evidence reported in the Coleman (2011) and AMRC (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011) reviews. The focus of this assessment was upon examining the extent to which abortion had beneficial outcomes by reducing the mental health risks of unwanted or unintended pregnancy. This analysis focussed on five outcome domains using data from 14 analyses, reported in eight publications based on four studies. The principal finding of this analysis was that there was no evidence for any outcome domain that the provision of abortion was associated with significant reductions in mental health risks. This conclusion held when the data were

re-analysed to take into account measures of study quality. The findings are also consistent with all major reviews of this topic that have concluded either that: abortion is unrelated to mental health outcomes (Charles et al., 2008; American Psychological Association, 2008; National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011) or is associated with increases in risks of mental health problems (Coleman, 2005, 2011). No review has concluded that abortion has beneficial consequences by mitigating the mental health risks of unwanted pregnancy. A recent study by Munk-Olsen and colleagues (2011) concluded that the relative risks of mental disorders amongst those having an abortion were similar before and after abortion while risks of mental disorders increased in those having first births. However, this study did not directly compare the mental health risks of those having abortion with an equivalent group of women coming to term with unwanted or unintended pregnancy. To date, there is no direct evidence showing that women having abortion are at lower risk of mental health problems than equivalent groups of women coming to term with unwanted or unplanned pregnancy.

Because of the highly controversial nature of this topic, it is useful to consider a number of possible limitations of the study and responses to these.

It could be suggested that the paper lacks novelty and is largely a restatement of what is already known. It is correct that the statistical review in Table 2 is not original and is a restatement of evidence previously reviewed. However, the originality of the paper lies with the process of linking this research evidence to an important research question regarding the mental health benefits of abortion. This research question has substantial policy and clinical significance but has been given limited attention in the existing literature.

It may also be suggested that the studies reviewed contain multiple problems research design, analysis and interpretation that prevent any clear conclusions from being drawn. In comparison to the ideal of testing the mental benefits of abortion using a randomized controlled trial, it is clear that existing observational studies provide only limited and potentially flawed evidence on the mental health consequences of abortion. However, this observation does not impugn the validity of the conclusion that: at the present time there is no credible scientific evidence demonstrating that abortion has mental health benefits.

In addition, it could be suggested that the comparisons made in the study between those having abortion and those having unwanted or unintended pregnancy do not provide an appropriate test of the mental health effects of abortion. A better comparison would be between those having abortion and those refused abortion. In addressing the research question, we have taken the approach used by the majority of the reviews of the mental health consequences of abortion (Bradshaw and Slade, 2003; Charles et al., 2008; American Psychological Association, 2008; National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011) by comparing those having abortion with those coming to term with

unwanted or unintended pregnancy. Further, to our knowledge, the only study that has compared those having abortion with those refused abortion is the re-analysis of Gilchrist et al. (1995), conducted by the AMRC review. This re-analysis found that, for a number of outcomes (psychotic illness, non-psychotic illness, self harm), those refused abortion fared worse than those provided with abortion, with this difference being statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) for psychotic illness. This evidence suggests the possibility that further studies making such comparisons could demonstrate positive benefits for abortion. However, at the present time the evidence is far too limited to conclude that abortion reduces any mental health risks of unwanted or unintended pregnancy.

Finally, it may also be suggested that the integrity of the review is compromised by the inclusion of studies from authors well known for their pro-life views. Given the relatively small number of studies in this area and the controversial nature of the area, it was our view that the most even-handed approach to reviewing the evidence was to include all studies comparing the mental health outcomes of those having abortion with comparison series of women coming to term with unwanted or unintended pregnancy. Further, it is clearly demonstrable that the study conclusions regarding the absence of benefit of abortion are not influenced by study selection factors. Specifically, irrespective of ratings of study quality, the data in Table 2 show that there is no evidence of beneficial consequences of abortion for: all studies; all authors and all outcomes. Of the 14 ORs reported in Table 2, 13 are greater than 1 and in all cases the one-tailed hypothesis of beneficial consequences of abortion is strongly rejected. Whether or not certain studies are included or excluded from the review does not change these conclusions.

In summary, while there may be grounds for concern that the evidence reviewed does not adequately test the research hypothesis, these problems of evidence quality do not impugn the validity of the main study conclusion that at the present time there is no credible evidence to support the research hypothesis that abortion reduces any mental health risks associated with unwanted or unplanned pregnancy that come to term. This situation may reflect the fact that existing studies have not adequately tested the hypothesis, or that the hypothesis is not correct, or both.

These conclusions have important, if uncomfortable, implications for clinical practice and the interpretation of the law in those jurisdictions (England, Wales, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand) which require abortion to be authorized on medical grounds. In these jurisdictions, the great majority of abortions are authorized on mental health grounds (Statistics New Zealand, 2003; South Australian Abortion Reporting Committee, 2008; Department of Health, 2011). The present re-analysis suggests that, currently, there is no evidence that would support this practice. While it remains possible that abortion may mitigate any

adverse effects of unwanted or unintended pregnancies, the available evidence does not support this conclusion.

In turn, this conclusion suggests an urgent need to revisit both clinical practice and the law in those jurisdictions in which mental health grounds are the principal criteria for recommending and authorizing abortion. The history of abortion law and law reforms shows that this is likely to resurrect politically uncomfortable and socially divisive debates about access to legal abortion (Cica, 1998; Abortion Rights, 2003; Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand, 2011). It is probably awareness of these consequences that explains the almost complete lack of discussion of the evidence for therapeutic benefits of abortion in recent reviews of abortion and mental health. However, it is our view that the growing evidence suggesting that abortion does not have therapeutic benefits cannot be ignored indefinitely, and it is unacceptable for clinicians to authorize large numbers of abortions on grounds for which there is, currently, no scientific evidence. On the face of things, the most straightforward way of resolving these tensions between the law and clinical practice in jurisdictions that use health criteria as grounds for authorizing abortion is to extend these criteria to include serious threats to the social, educational, or economic wellbeing of the woman and her immediate family as legitimate grounds for authorizing abortion. This revision would more closely align the criteria for authorizing abortion with the multiple personal reasons (Broen et al., 2005; Finer et al., 2005) for which women seek abortion.

It could be argued that the lack of evidence of mental health benefits for abortion may be explained by problems of study quality including the selection of comparison groups, the measurement of outcomes, the control of confounding, and related issues (Kendall et al., 2012), as noted in previous reviews including that of the AMRC (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011), the APA (American Psychological Association, 2008), and the review by Charles et al. (2008). For example, the majority of studies in this area have used unintended pregnancy for a comparison group. However, by no means all of those having unintended pregnancy will find these pregnancies unwanted. The use of an unintended pregnancy comparison could therefore obscure possible benefits of abortion. Some re-assurance about this matter can be found from the fact that the studies using an unwanted pregnancy comparison group (Schmiege and Russo, 2005; Fergusson et al., 2008) and the studies using unintended comparison groups (Gilchrist et al., 1995; Cougle et al., 2005; Coleman, 2006; Steinberg and Russo, 2008) produced generally similar AOR estimates. In all cases, Q tests found no evidence of significant between study heterogeneity in the AOR estimates.

However, these deficiencies in study design are not sufficient grounds for concluding that abortion has beneficial consequences, although they do suggest the need

for further and better research into this topic. One of the interesting findings uncovered by this reappraisal is that all of the analyses which have examined this issue using comparison groups of women who come to term with unwanted or unintended pregnancy have been drawn from four studies, with three of these studies not being explicitly designed to research this topic. It is probably this lack of well-designed research more than anything else that explains the continuing controversies in this area. This situation has led to reviews of this topic drawing strong conclusions about the absence (American Psychological Association, 2008; Charles et al., 2008; National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011) or presence (Coleman, 2005, 2011) of associations between abortion and mental health using limited data from studies that were not designed to examine this topic.

A further finding of this review was that, contrary to the conclusions drawn in the APA report (American Psychological Association, 2008), the Charles et al. review (2008) and the AMRC review (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011), there was suggestive evidence that abortion may be associated with small to moderate increases in risks of mental health problems with these increases being most evident for substance misuse. The exceptions to these findings were for depression and for comparisons involving women refused abortion with those provided with abortion. Because of the limitations of the existing data (American Psychological Association, 2008; Charles et al., 2008; National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2011; Kendall et al., 2012) and the highly controversial nature of this topic, it would be premature to conclude emphatically that this evidence is sufficient grounds for believing that abortion has adverse effects on mental health. Equally, however, the generally consistent evidence suggesting small to moderate increases in rates of anxiety, substance use problems, and suicidal behaviours does provide sufficient grounds for suggesting that further and better research is needed before strong conclusions can be ventured about this topic. Another area in which there is need for further research concerns the extent to which abortion has benefits for women and their immediate family in other areas of social, educational, and economic wellbeing. This research will be needed to evaluate the extent to which any change to the law along the lines outlined above produces positive outcomes for women seeking abortion.

### Funding

This research was funded by grants from the Health Research Council of New Zealand, the National Child Health Research Foundation, the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board.

### Declaration of interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest. The authors alone are responsible for the content and writing of the paper.

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## Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995–2009

Priscilla K. Coleman

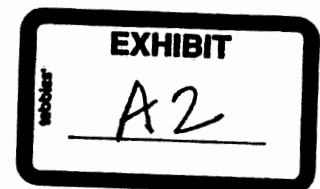
*BJP* 2011, 199:180-186.

Access the most recent version at DOI: 10.1192/bjp.bp.110.077230

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<b>Supplementary Material</b>	Supplementary material can be found at: <a href="http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/suppl/2011/08/11/199.3.180.DC1.html">http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/suppl/2011/08/11/199.3.180.DC1.html</a>
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## Review article

## Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995–2009

Priscilla K. Coleman

**Background**

Given the methodological limitations of recently published qualitative reviews of abortion and mental health, a quantitative synthesis was deemed necessary to represent more accurately the published literature and to provide clarity to clinicians.

**Aims**

To measure the association between abortion and indicators of adverse mental health, with subgroup effects calculated based on comparison groups (no abortion, unintended pregnancy delivered, pregnancy delivered) and particular outcomes. A secondary objective was to calculate population-attributable risk (PAR) statistics for each outcome.

**Method**

After the application of methodologically based selection criteria and extraction rules to minimise bias, the sample comprised 22 studies, 36 measures of effect and 877 181 participants (163 831 experienced an abortion). Random effects pooled odds ratios were computed using adjusted odds ratios from the original studies and PAR statistics were derived from the pooled odds ratios.

**Results**

Women who had undergone an abortion experienced an 81% increased risk of mental health problems, and nearly 10% of the incidence of mental health problems was shown to be attributable to abortion. The strongest subgroup estimates of increased risk occurred when abortion was compared with term pregnancy and when the outcomes pertained to substance use and suicidal behaviour.

**Conclusions**

This review offers the largest quantitative estimate of mental health risks associated with abortion available in the world literature. Calling into question the conclusions from traditional reviews, the results revealed a moderate to highly increased risk of mental health problems after abortion. Consistent with the tenets of evidence-based medicine, this information should inform the delivery of abortion services.

**Declaration of Interest**

None.

Despite federal legalisation of abortion in the USA in 1973, women's right to choose abortion has been hotly debated, factoring heavily into the broader political landscape. Paralleling political division at the societal level, there has been considerable debate among academics regarding the extent to which abortion poses serious mental health risks to women. Over the past several decades, hundreds of studies have been published indicating statistically significant associations between induced abortion and adverse psychological outcomes of various forms.<sup>1–4</sup> However, the authors of the three most recent qualitative literature reviews arrived at the conclusion that abortion does not pose serious risks above those associated with unintended pregnancy carried to term.<sup>5–7</sup> This conclusion is problematic for several reasons, the most salient of which are described briefly below.

First, only a handful of studies have actually included unintended pregnancy carried to term as a control group. Pregnancy intendedness is not well defined in the literature and basic conceptualisation and measurement issues challenge the validity of the intendedness variable as used in the available studies. Specifically, pregnancies that are terminated are sometimes initially intended by one or both partners and pregnancies that are initially unintended may become wanted as the pregnancy progresses, rendering assessment of intendedness subject to considerable change over time. In addition, pregnancy intendedness is typically measured dichotomously (intended/unintended) when true responses may actually fall on a continuum from fully intended and planned for years to entirely unintended, with a great deal of variation likely between these two extremes. At least half of all pregnancies in the USA are classified as unintended and among adolescents and women over 40 years old the percentage is over 75%,<sup>8,9</sup> meaning the majority of women in the control groups in studies comparing abortion with term pregnancy actually delivered unintended pregnancies even if the variable was not directly assessed.

Second, many recently published studies with extensive controls for third variables were not reflected in the three recent reviews, with no explanation given as to why large segments of the peer-reviewed literature were missing. For instance, in the 2008 review by Charles *et al.*,<sup>6</sup> several of the studies that were overlooked actually met the inclusion criteria.<sup>10–19</sup> Similarly, studies examining substance misuse were not included in two of the three reviews,<sup>6,7</sup> with no rationale for excluding them. Numerous studies have demonstrated statistically significant associations between abortion and subsequent substance misuse, a widely recognised and prevalent mental health problem.<sup>2,10,20–24</sup>

Third, in all three literature reviews the choice of studies lacked sufficient methodologically based selection criteria.<sup>5–7</sup> As a result the sample of studies included was either too broad, resulting in incorporation of results from numerous weaker studies, or too narrow, resulting in unjustified elimination of sound studies. Ironically, the largest review, by the American Psychological Association Task Force, exemplifies both problems as the selection criteria for one type of study (those with a comparison group) were simply publication of empirical data on induced abortion with at least one mental health measure in peer-reviewed journals in English on US and non-US samples;<sup>5</sup> however, non-US samples were avoided entirely for a second type of study (no comparison group) examined in this review without an appropriate rationale, resulting in elimination of dozens of methodologically sophisticated international studies. In the review conducted by Robinson *et al.* the authors mention having identified 216 peer-reviewed papers on the topic of abortion and mental health and then note selection of a sample of studies that 'exemplify common errors in research methodology' as well as 'major articles that attempt to correct the flaws'.<sup>7</sup> No details were offered regarding how studies were chosen to fit into these two categories.

The fourth troubling issue is the fact that quantification of effects was not attempted by any of the three research teams. Given the expansive literature on abortion and mental health, there is no reasonable justification for not quantifying effects. In the only truly systematic review available, published in 2003 by Thorp *et al.*, stringent selection criteria were employed and their analysis of the largest and strongest studies available resulted in the conclusion that abortion is associated with an increased risk of depression that may lead to self-harm.<sup>4</sup> Owing to the broad objective of this review, which addressed physical complications as well, a wide range of mental health effects were not examined.

In this highly politicised area of research it is imperative for researchers to apply scientifically based evaluation standards in a systematic, unbiased manner when synthesising and critiquing research findings. If not, authors open themselves up to accusations of shifting standards based on conclusions aligned with a particular political viewpoint. Moreover, the results may be dangerously misleading and result in misinformation guiding the practice of abortion. Through a process of systematically combining the quantitative results from numerous studies addressing the same basic question (e.g. 'is there an association between abortion and mental health?') far more reliable results are produced than from particular studies that are limited in size and scope. Moreover, as a methodology wherein studies are weighted based on objective scientific criteria, meta-analysis offers a logical, more objective alternative to qualitative reviews when the area of study is embedded in political controversy. Therefore, in an effort to provide a long overdue, dispassionate analysis of the literature on abortion and mental health, the primary objective of this review was to conduct meta-analyses of associations between induced abortion and adverse mental health outcomes (depression, anxiety, substance use and suicidal behaviour) with sensitivity to the use of distinct control groups employed in the various studies (no abortion, unintended pregnancy delivered, pregnancy delivered). The focus was on studies published between 1995 and 2009 because of the considerable improvement in research designs on the topic of post-abortion mental health in recent years. Contemporary research on abortion and mental health has addressed a number of shortcomings of the earlier work by employing comparison groups with controls for third variables. However, there has also been increased emphasis on incorporating nationally representative samples, prospective designs, controls for prior psychiatric history and comprehensive assessments of mental health outcome measures which in some cases included actual medical records. A secondary objective of this review was to calculate population-attributable risk (PAR) percentages using pooled odds ratios derived from the meta-analysis subdivided by outcome measures. These statistics reflect the incidence of a disorder in the exposed sample (e.g. women who have undergone abortion) that is directly due to the exposure (the abortion procedure). Both the pooled odds ratios and the PAR percentages yielded herein provide readily interpretable indices of the mental health consequences of abortion and should offer new clarity to the academic debate and to clinicians seeking information to guide effective practice.

## Method

### Inclusion criteria

Studies identified using the Medline and PsycINFO databases were included in this review if they met the following criteria: a sample size of 100 or more participants; use of a comparison group (no abortion, pregnancy delivered or unintended pregnancy delivered); one or more mental health outcome variables

(depression, anxiety, alcohol use, marijuana use or suicidal behaviour); controls for third variables; use of odds ratios to express effects observed to facilitate calculation of readily interpretable pooled odds ratios and PAR statistics; publication in English in peer-reviewed journals between 1995 and 2009.

### Rules for extraction and synthesis of effects

In addition to the above criteria, rules for extracting and synthesising data derived from the studies selected were developed based on the recommendations outlined by Lipsey,<sup>25</sup> to avoid overrepresentation of particular samples and statistical dependencies among effects, and generally to ensure the most conservative and unbiased assemblage of results from the individual studies exhibiting considerable variability in reporting.

- Relevant studies contributed a maximum of one effect per outcome. When authors reported more than one effect per variable based on separate analyses conducted for distinct demographic groups, or when different diagnoses were reported on within a general class such as anxiety or depression, a composite odds ratio was derived to avoid overweighting in favour of particular studies.
- When studies had more than one comparison group, selection rules were employed to provide more weight to comparisons wherein the control group was most closely matched to the abortion group. Specifically, if 'unintended pregnancy delivered' was used the results relative to this group were selected, and when only 'pregnancy delivered' and 'no abortion' comparison groups were used, the effects pertaining to the 'pregnancy delivered' group were selected.
- In situations wherein separate results were reported based on one v. two or more abortions, the results specific to one abortion were selected to enable sampling of a more homogeneous population. There are studies suggesting differential effects based on the number of abortions.<sup>26,27</sup>
- When particular authors used the same sample and variables in more than one publication, only the most recent publication was selected. When the same data-set was used by different groups, both sets of results were included when distinct samples were defined.

### Statistical analysis

Meta-analyses were conducted using Comprehensive Meta-Analysis version 2.0 for Windows (Biostat, [www.meta-analysis.com](http://www.meta-analysis.com)). Random effects meta-analyses were computed based on the socio-demographic heterogeneity of the study samples.<sup>43</sup> The random effects model takes into account two sources of variance (within-study error and variation in the true effects across studies) with the study weights designed to minimise both sources of variance.<sup>43</sup> A pooled odds ratio was computed using the full 36 effects extracted. In addition, two sets of subgroup pooled odds ratios were calculated based on the type of comparison group used and on specific forms of mental health problems. Adjusted odds ratios with controls for third variables were used in all the random effects meta-analyses. Finally, PAR percentages were computed using the pooled odds ratios (OR) derived from the random effects model subdivided by outcome measures. The PAR percentages were calculated using the formula  $100 \times (Px(OR - 1)) / (1 + Px(OR - 1))$ , where  $Px$  is the estimate of population exposure;  $Px$  is calculated as  $c / (c + d)$ , where  $c$  is the number of women in the abortion group who did not experience the mental illness in question and  $d$  is the number of women in the 'no abortion' group who were identified as not having the mental illness examined.

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### Results

After applying the inclusion criteria and rules detailed above, the sample consisted of 22 peer-reviewed studies (15 from the USA and 7 from other countries);<sup>3,20-22,24,36-42</sup> these comprised 36 measures of effect (9 alcohol use/misuse, 5 marijuana, 7 anxiety, 11 depression, 4 suicidal behaviour) and a total of 877 181 participants, of whom 163 831 had experienced an abortion (see online Table DS1).

The first random effects meta-analysis, which included 36 adjusted odds ratios from the 22 studies identified, resulted in a pooled odds ratio of 1.81 (95% CI 1.57–2.09,  $P < 0.0001$ ). The results of this analysis indicated that women who have had an abortion experienced an 81% higher risk of mental health problems of various forms when compared with women who had not had an abortion (Fig. 1). Results of a second random effects meta-analysis, wherein separate effects were produced based on the type of outcome measure, are provided in Fig. 2. All effects were statistically significant, with the largest pooled odds ratio derived for marijuana use (OR=3.30, 95% CI 1.64–7.44,  $P=0.001$ ), followed by suicide behaviours (OR=2.55, 95% CI 1.31–4.96,  $P=0.006$ ), alcohol use/misuse (OR=2.10, 95% CI 1.77–2.49,  $P < 0.0001$ ), depression (OR=1.37, 95% CI 1.22–1.53,  $P < 0.0001$ ) and anxiety (OR=1.34, 95% CI 1.12–1.59,  $P < 0.0001$ ). These results indicate that the level of increased risk

associated with abortion varies from 34% to 230% depending on the nature of the outcome.

In the third random effects meta-analysis (Fig. 3) three separate pooled odds ratios were produced based on the type of comparison group employed in the respective studies. When women who had terminated a pregnancy were compared with women who had not done so relative to all mental health problems, the result was statistically significant (OR=1.59, 95% CI 1.36–1.85,  $P < 0.0001$ ). When women who terminated a pregnancy were compared with women who carried to term, using the full set of mental health variables, the result was considerably stronger (OR=2.38, 95% CI 1.62–3.50,  $P < 0.0001$ ). Finally, when 'unintended pregnancy carried to term' operated as the comparison group, the result was likewise statistically significant and closer to the result relative to the 'no abortion' comparison group (OR=1.55, 95% CI 1.30–1.83,  $P < 0.0001$ ). These data indicate that regardless of the type of comparison group used, abortion is associated with an enhanced risk of experiencing mental health problems, with the magnitude of this risk ranging from 55% to 138%.

The last set of analyses involved calculation of PAR percentages based on pooled odds ratio estimates. The overall PAR percentage was nearly 10%, with the range for particular mental health problems extending from 8.3% for anxiety to 26.5% for marijuana use (Table 1). In addition, a pooled odds ratio for the two large-scale studies in which actual suicide was

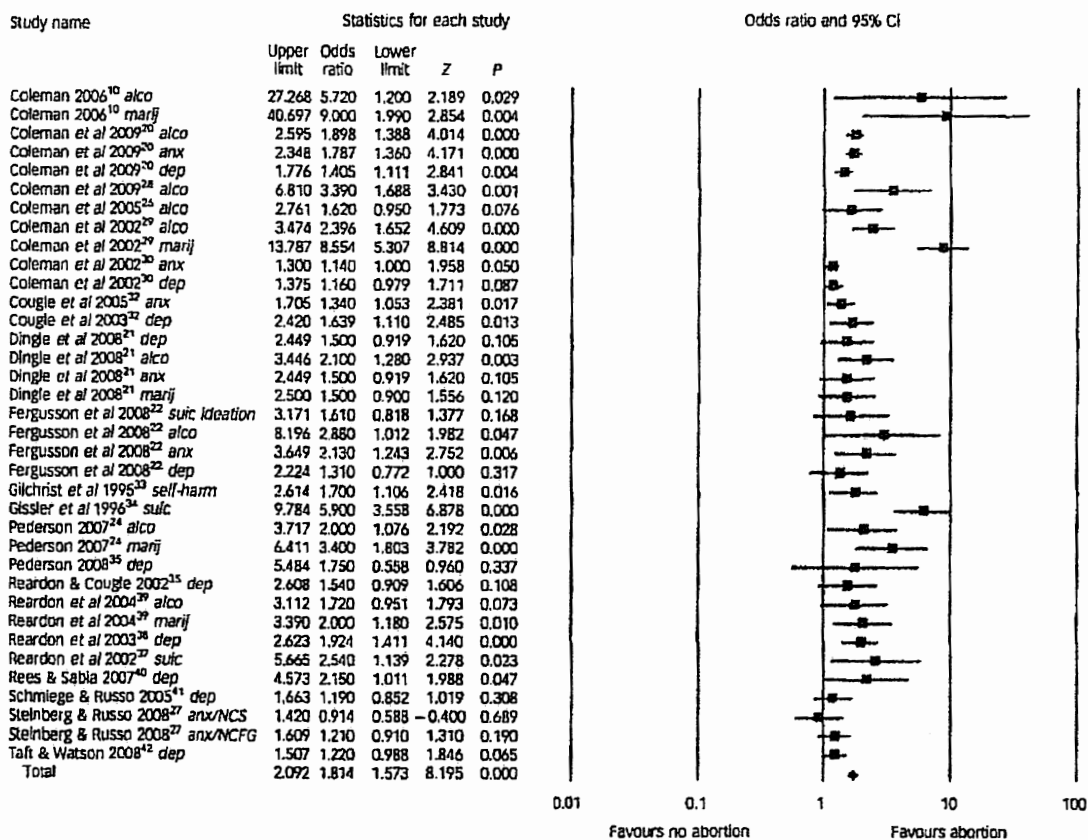


Fig. 1. Random effects meta-analysis of the association between abortion and mental health problems (alcohol use/misuse, anxiety, depression, marijuana use, suicidal behaviour). The overall pooled odds ratio was 1.81 (95% CI 1.57–2.09,  $P < 0.0001$ ).

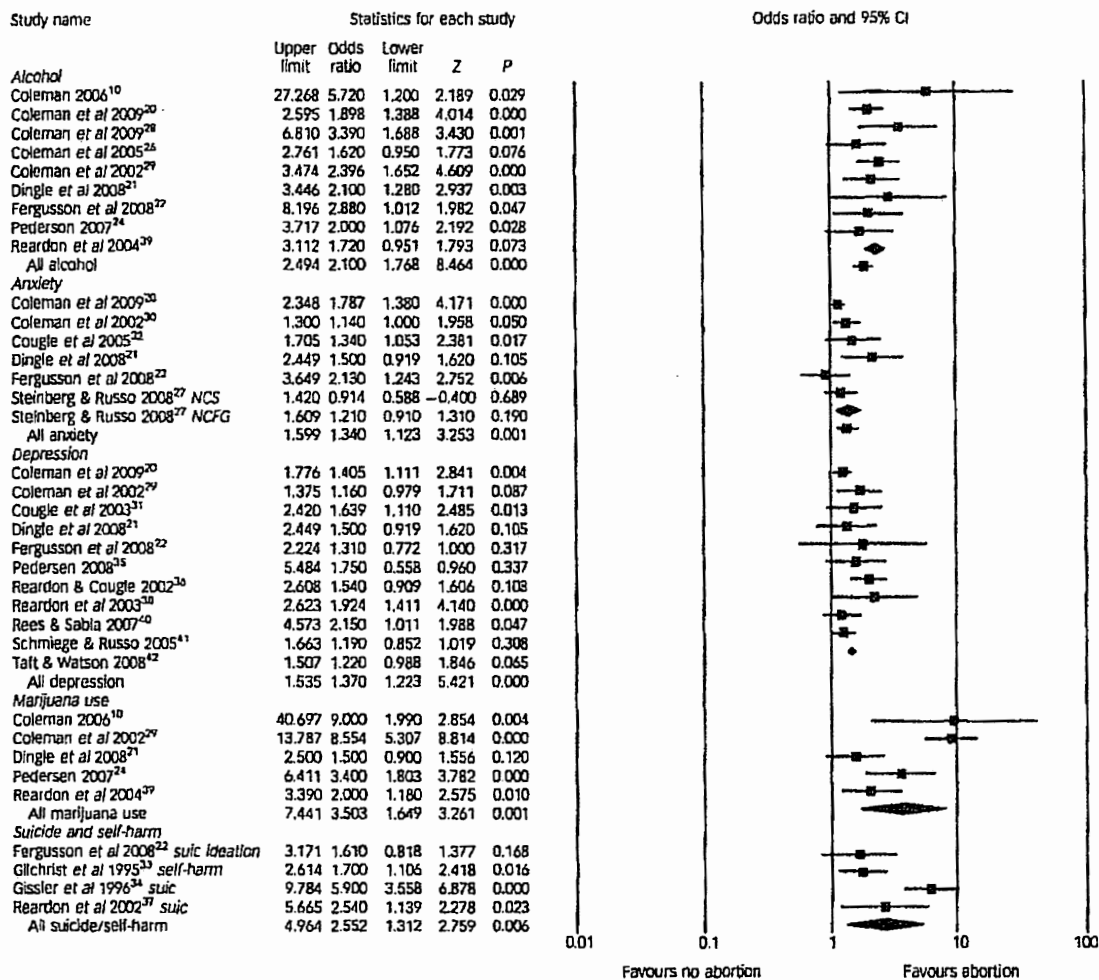


Fig. 2. Abortion and subsequent mental health outcomes compared by depression measures. *OR*, Odds Ratio; *CI*, Confidence Interval.

measured yielded a significant result ( $OR=4.11$ , 95%  $CI$  1.82–9.31) and a PAR percentage of 34.9% was derived using this pooled odds ratio.

### Discussion

Based on data extracted from 22 studies, the results of this meta-analytic review of the abortion and mental health literature indicate quite consistently that abortion is associated with moderate to highly increased risks of psychological problems subsequent to the procedure. The magnitude of effects derived varied based on the comparison group (no abortion, pregnancy delivered, unintended pregnancy delivered) and the type of problem examined (alcohol use/misuse, marijuana use, anxiety, depression, suicidal behaviours). Overall, the results revealed that women who had undergone an abortion experienced an 81% increased risk of mental health problems, and nearly 10% of the incidence of mental health problems was shown to be directly attributable to abortion. The strongest effects were observed when women who had had an abortion were compared with women who had carried to term and when the outcomes measured related

Table 1. Population attributable risk (PAR) percentages associated with abortion	
Anxiety	8.1
Depression	8.5
Alcohol use	10.7
Marijuana use	26.5
All suicidal behaviours	20.9
Suicide	34.9
All	9.9

to substance use and suicidal behaviour. Great care was taken to assess accurately the risks from the most methodologically sophisticated studies, and the quantitatively based conclusions reflect data gathered on over three-quarters of a million women. Of particular significance is the fact that all effects entered into the analyses were adjusted odds ratios with controls for numerous third variables.

The finding that abortion is associated with significantly higher risks of mental health problems compared with carrying

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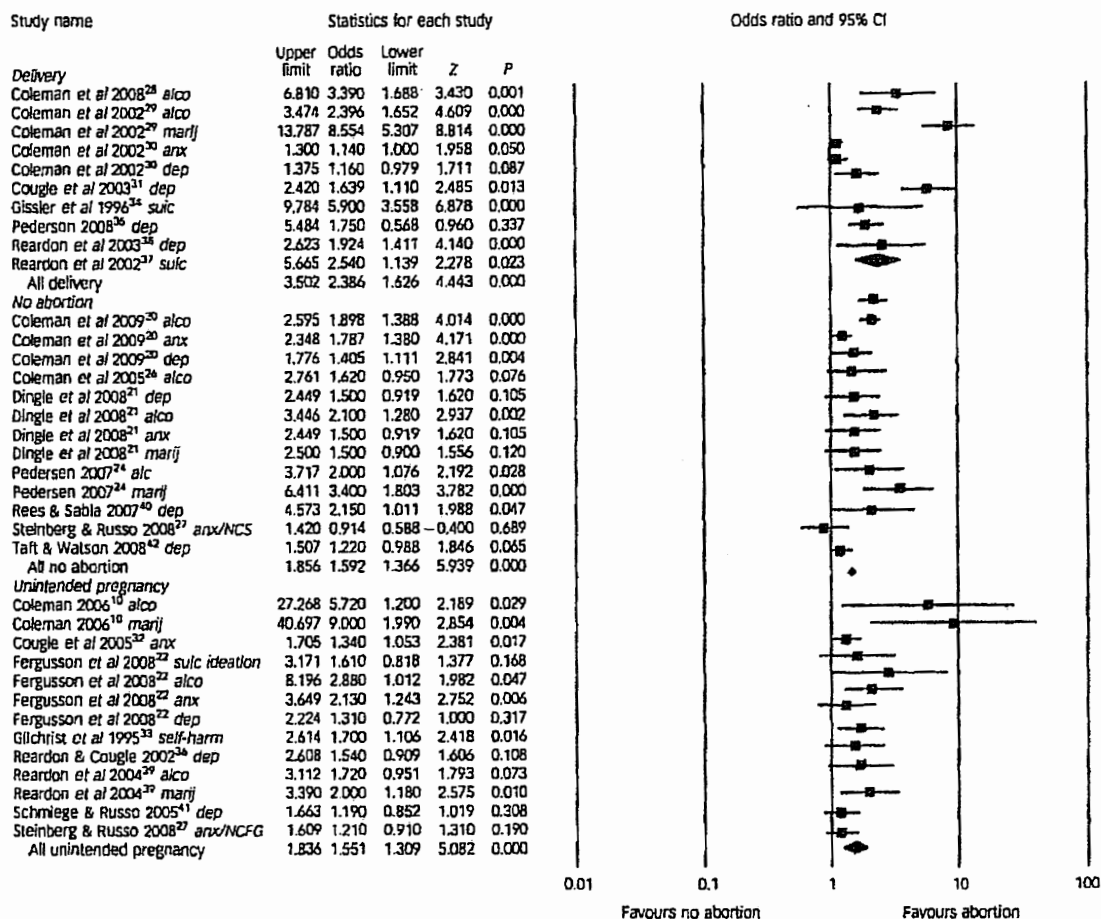


Fig. 1. Forest plot showing odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for the association between abortion and mental health outcomes. The x-axis is logarithmic, ranging from 0.01 to 100. A vertical line at 1.0 indicates no effect. Values to the left of 1.0 favor no abortion, and values to the right favor abortion. Most studies show odds ratios greater than 1.0, indicating a higher risk of mental health issues for the no-abortion group.

a pregnancy to term is consistent with literature demonstrating protective effects of pregnancy delivered relative to particular mental health outcomes. For example, with regard to suicide, Gissler *et al* reported the annual suicide rate for women of reproductive age to be 11.3 per 100 000, whereas the rate was only 5.9 per 100 000 in association with birth.<sup>34</sup> Several other studies conducted in different countries have revealed even lower rates of suicide following birth when compared with women in the general population.<sup>44–47</sup> More research is needed to examine systematically the specific nature of this protective effect against suicide, to determine the extent to which the protective effect holds for unintended pregnancies delivered, and to examine possible protective effects of childbirth relative to other mental health variables.

When the abortion group was compared with the no pregnancy group and with the unintended pregnancy delivered group, the magnitude of the effects was very close. This finding challenges the generally accepted belief that unintended pregnancy delivered represents the only or most appropriate control group for studies designed to explore the impact of abortion on mental health. Use of a no pregnancy delivered group may be a cleaner control group, since many women experience postpartum depression and/or anxiety following childbirth. From a practical standpoint, a no pregnancy comparison group should be

considerably easier to secure than a group of women who deliver an unintended pregnancy.

#### Future research

Future studies should explore possible process mechanisms linking abortion to substance misuse and suicidal behaviour, since the strongest effects were detected for these variables. For example, substance misuse and suicidal behaviour may result from efforts to block or avoid any psychological pain associated with the procedure and may be construed as faster, easier remedies for personal suffering than seeking professional help. Women could find it particularly difficult to reach out to others if they experience shame or guilt associated with the abortion. Consistent with the contemporary ethos of evidence-based medicine wherein effective use is made of the best available data from systematic research, firm standards should be articulated for accessing and synthesising information from the published literature for the purpose of training healthcare personnel. The results of this systematic, quantitative review cast serious doubt on the conclusions derived from the recently published traditional reviews described earlier,<sup>5–7</sup> and suggest that there are in fact some real risks associated with abortion that should be shared with women as they are counselled prior to an abortion decision.

Healthcare professionals are responsible for educating patients in a manner that reflects the current scientific literature; however, the average practitioner does not generally have the time and expertise to study and attempt to resolve conflicting interpretations of the published research in order to extract the most reliable information. The responsibility therefore rests initially within the research community to set aside personal ideological commitments, objectively examine all high-quality published data, and conduct analyses of the literature that are based on state-of-the-art data analysis procedures, yielding readily interpretable synopses as has been attempted here. Once this goal is satisfactorily realised, professional organisations will face the challenge of developing efficient protocols for informing practitioners and for streamlining the dissemination of information to the public.

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which is a division of the US Department of Health and Human Services ([www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/ratings.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/ratings.htm)), has identified basic guidelines for how scientific evidence should be used to inform practice. These are summarised below and are based on an analysis of risks and benefits as established in the scientific literature.

- Level A: Good scientific evidence indicates the benefits of the service substantially outweigh the risks with clinicians advised to discuss the service with eligible patients.
- Level B: Fair scientific evidence indicates the benefits of the service outweigh the risks with clinicians encouraged to discuss the service with eligible patients.
- Level C: At least fair scientific evidence indicating benefits are provided by the service, but the balance between benefits and risks precludes general recommendations. Clinicians are advised to only offer the service if there are special considerations.
- Level D: At least fair scientific evidence indicates the risks of the service outweigh benefits with clinicians advised not to routinely offer the service.
- Level I: Scientific evidence is deficient, poorly done, or conflicting precluding assessment of the risk benefit ratio. Clinicians are advised to convey the uncertainty of evidence surrounding the service to patients.

#### Putative benefits of abortion

Procedure benefits of abortion have not been empirically established and the results of the substantial review by Thorp *et al* described earlier in conjunction with the results of the present quantitative synthesis indicate considerable evidence documenting mental health risks.<sup>4</sup> Without more research pertaining to possible benefits, the above guidelines are difficult to apply. In one study by Major *et al*,<sup>14</sup> the average response of the study respondents reflecting their positive post-abortion emotional reactions (defined as 'happy', 'pleased' or 'satisfied') was 2.24 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 corresponding to 'not at all' and a 5 representing 'a great deal'. The passage of time apparently did not result in more positive emotions, because 2 years after abortion the average rating dropped by a statistically significant amount to 2.06. A few additional studies have addressed associations between abortion and educational attainment, income and other outcomes of this nature, which may be construed as indirect indicators of mental health;<sup>18,49</sup> however, mental health benefits have received scant direct attention in the literature.

Concerns regarding the deficient positive effects literature were echoed in an editorial published in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*,<sup>50</sup> in which Fergusson questioned the legitimacy of justifying over 90% of UK abortions based on the presumption that abortion

offers the benefit of reducing mental health risks associated with continuing the pregnancy. Fergusson specifically stated:

Although decisions on whether to proceed with induced abortion are made on the basis of clinical assessments of the extent to which abortion poses a risk to maternal mental health, these clinical assessments are not currently supported by population-level evidence showing the provision of abortion reduces mental health risks for women having unwanted pregnancy.<sup>50</sup>

Until sound evidence documenting mental health benefits of abortion is available, clinicians should convey the current state of uncertainty related to benefits of abortion in addition to sharing the most accurate information pertaining to statistically validated risks.

#### Strengths and limitations of this review

Motivated by the shortcomings of previous non-quantitative efforts to synthesise and analyse a complex literature prone to biased interpretations, I have attempted in this study to evaluate systematically a wealth of data on the topic of abortion and mental health. The use of inclusion criteria that resulted in incorporation of the largest and strongest studies published in recent years is an obvious strength. However, the review is clearly not exhaustive as only a 15-year publication window was examined and studies that did not incorporate a comparison group were not analysed. There is a strong need for a quantitative review of literature examining the hundreds of studies that have been conducted on samples of women who obtained abortions without inclusion of a comparison group. As noted previously, the review of literature conducted by the American Psychological Association Task Force confined their examination of this study form to US samples.<sup>5</sup> Another limitation of my study relates to the lack of uniformity in control variables, demographic characteristics of the samples, length of time between the procedure and the follow-up assessments, and considerable variation in how the outcomes were measured.

It is encouraging to note that methodologically sophisticated studies on the topic of abortion and mental health are being published at a significantly higher rate than ever before. Researchers throughout the world are seeking to understand the experience of induced abortion more fully and are increasingly willing to take on a subject that has been shrouded in political controversy and has not received the scholarly attention it deserves. The latest example is a study based on National Comorbidity Survey – Replication data by Canadian researchers Mota *et al*.<sup>51</sup> This 2010 study was published after the analyses reported herein were conducted; however, its results are startlingly similar. Statistically significant associations were observed between abortion history and a wide range of mental health problems after controlling for the experience of interpersonal violence and demographic variables. When compared with women without an abortion history, women with a prior abortion experienced a 61% increased risk of mood disorders. Abortion was further linked with a 61% increased risk of social phobia, and increased the risk of suicide ideation by 59%. In the realm of substance misuse, the abortion-related increased risks for alcohol misuse, alcohol dependence, drug misuse, drug dependence and any substance use disorder were 261%, 142%, 313%, 287% and 280% respectively. Population-attributable risk percentages were likewise similar, ranging from 5.8% to 24.7%.<sup>51</sup>

#### Concluding remarks

This review was undertaken in an effort to produce an unbiased, quantitative analysis of the best available evidence addressing abortion as one risk factor among many others that may increase the likelihood of mental health problems. The composite results reported herein indicate that abortion is a statistically validated risk factor for the development of various psychological disorders. However, when the independent variable cannot be ethically manipulated, as is the case with abortion history, definitive causal

conclusions are precluded from both individual studies and from a quantitative synthesis such as this one. Although an answer to the causal question is not readily discerned based on the data available, as more prospective studies with numerous controls are being published, indirect evidence for a causal connection is beginning to emerge.

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First received 1 Jan 2010, final revision 5 Oct 2010, accepted 21 Mar 2011

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# ARKANSAS

## TESTIMONIES OF 12 WEEKS GESTATION OR MORE



## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Boone

My name is Micki I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Atlanta GA

07//1974

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

14

3. What type of abortion was performed?

saline

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was forced to have this abortion by my ex-husband, an Army officer, who felt another child would adversely effect his military career. It not only broke my heart when I killed my unborn child, but it killed my love for my husband and eventually destroyed my marriage.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I had no idea of the mental, emotional and physical toll it would take on my life. It was, indeed, a life-shattering experience and an example of post traumatic shock syndrome at its worst.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My ex-husband.

9. How has abortion affected you?

I spent years struggling with grief, remorse and guilt. It took much counseling and finally a divorce before I could allow myself to receive God's merciful forgiveness for this horrific act.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

It caused me to hate my ex-husband. It caused him the same kind of emotional distress, and our relationship was ultimately destroyed. It affected my children, and my step-daughter found herself doing

the same thing in her life and struggling with the same issues for years.

**11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?**

Please don't do it. Be responsible and respect your yourself. If you get in that position, don't let anyone convince you that this is a "way out" and will "be over before your know it." It will not "be over before you know it," and it will effect your life for years and years to come. It can even destroy you.

**12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?**

Our laws should be written to protect our citizens, and the legalization of abortion has made it legal to destroy the lives of men, women and children in this nation with the court's blessings! Please change the law to protect us!

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 8/16/2008

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

# DECLARATION

## HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Benton

My name is Lisa . . . I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

TX

//1987

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

14

3. What type of abortion was performed?

Suction Aspiration

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was told it was a mass of tissue. I was NOT told that at the time of my abortion, all arteries are present, including the coronary vessels of the heart and that blood was fully circulating through these vessels to all body parts. I was NOT told that the "mass of tissue" had complete vocal chords and that the brain was fully formed and that the "mass of tissue" had organized muscles, could feel pain, suck it's thumb, and had eye lids that protected its delicate optical nerve fibers. I was NOT told that the flutters I felt were actually kicks and movements of the "mass of tissue"... of course, I did hear them say in the middle of the abortion "she is farther along than we thought" as I cried for them to stop... "It's too late, honey. You did the right thing. Now, you can go on with your life." I could hear the water running in the sink nearby. I then heard a big plop... "Did you just throw my baby in the trash?" I thought. ... Then they shuffled me out the back way.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was not told that I would never forget anything. I was not told I would experience deep despair and lonely scars of regret. I did not bring enough money to be put to sleep through the "procedure"... so I was awake the whole time. They numbed me. I felt no physical pain... but I will never forget the tugging and the pulling. I will never forget the sound of that vacuum. Instead, I was told I did the right thing. It was just a mass of tissue. That I could go on with my life. I am 40 years old with 8 living children. Two of my children are adopted. I have never forgotten my first child. The child murdered by having an abortion because they kept assuring me it was a mass of tissue. Who gets attached to a mass of tissue? A mass of tissue that could easily be aborted, forgotten, right? No. ...no. Not a "mass of tissue". A life wonderfully made, knit within my womb. A life destroyed. Literally ripped from my body. I can't forget. I will never forget.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I pressured myself. I was afraid to have a baby.

**9. How has abortion affected you?**

I became pregnant as an older teen. My father begged me NOT to abort. So I went to my mother. She left my dad, me, my sister and brother when I was 6 years old. She took me to the hospital to get an exam. They asked me, after they confirmed that I was pregnant, if I wanted to carry the baby to full term or abort the mass of tissue. Since I had no attachment to a "mass of tissue" I figured this would be no big deal. My mother gave me the money I needed to have the abortion. She dropped me off at the clinic. I was alone and had no idea what I was doing. I did not bring enough money to be put to sleep through the "procedure"... so I was awake the whole time. They numbed me. I felt no physical pain... but I will never forget the tugging and the pulling... the sound of the vacuum. After the abortion, I was shuffled out the back way. I sat alone on the curb outside, waiting for my mother to come pick me up. She was an hour late. They told me I would forget about the "mass of tissue" and be able to go on with my life, but I was having nightmares every night. For many years, a day did not go by that I did not contemplate suicide. Guilt, sorrow, loss of dignity and deep shame are the most felt responses after an abortion. I experienced deep despair and lonely scars of regret. Though forgiven, I will never forget.

**10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?**

When my oldest 2 children found out, it devastated them that I would do that. They were angry with me and could not understand why I would ever do such a thing. I spoke for CareNet Crisis Pregnancy Centers fundraiser one year and then gave my abortion testimony on the radio. I hired a babysitter to watch my children. I had NO IDEA she would listen to the testimony on the radio with my children listening. I wanted to tell them myself when they were a bit older. It was a very difficult time. They asked so many hard questions. Especially "Why"... I still have a hard time answering that. I can't answer that. By the grace of God alone, I have an amazing life now. With 6 children, precious gifts from God, I do not take life for granted. Most especially in light of having experienced the nightmare horror of abortion and even the fact that I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1999. I try to live every moment to its fullest because the value of life, the value of living, should never be taken for granted.

**11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?**

Please choose life. Your life should never be taken for granted. Please do not take for granted the life of the child being knit together in your womb by the hand of God. What is inside of you is not a "mass of tissue" You have a choice. You can have the memories of a child being knit in your womb and given the chance to live. Perhaps even giving a family who cannot have a child the opportunity to provide a loving home for your baby. or You can have the memory of a baby being ripped from your womb. A life aborted with the only excuse of inconvenience. A choice that will haunt you for the rest of your life. Choose a memory that will bless you and not haunt you. Please... choose life.

**12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?**

Women aren't forced to bear children, they choose to bear children by the act of having sexual intercourse. (rape or incest account for less than 1% of legal abortions.) If a man chooses not to be a father, he is considered a dead-beat loser. If a woman chooses not to be a mother, she is kindly labeled pro-choice. Why? Abortions based on the mother's health account for 3% of abortions. Abortions based on the baby's health account for 3% of abortions. Most women pursuing abortion feel selfishly inconvenienced by pregnancy. 1.5 Million babies are being aborted every year. That is over a million babies dying due to inconvenience. This is not a mass of tissue. This is life. A baby. A person... and 100% of a person's genetic makeup is determined at the moment of conception. Science and medicine define being a person (human) by genetic means. No one is saying that babies should have rights equal to or superior to a woman's. Babies simply have a right to life. Every child is a wanted child. The option of adoption is a far healthier option and there are endless lists of families waiting and longing to adopt those babies. Abortion is not a choice about women's value, family, career, how to live their lives, or when or whether to have children. Abortion is a choice between allowing an unborn baby to live or killing it.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 6/9/2009

Please use my Full Name

Signature

*Lisa*

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

# DECLARATION

## HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Craighead

My name is Linda . I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

San Francisco CA

11/15/1972

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

12

3. What type of abortion was performed?

D&C

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was receiving treatment from a planned parenthood clinic. I don't even remember the word abortion being used. I was very sick and in a very abusive marriage, had an infant son and totally isolated from friends and family. (My recollection is very vague on a lot of the details and the date, exact location and time, etc.)

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Again, I don't recall the word abortion being used. Seems the word D&C was used. They were going to make me feel better. Physically I did, emotionally, I've never been the same since.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☒ Yes ☐ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Influenced yes.

9. How has abortion affected you?

There is seldom a day that goes by I do not think of my son and what he could have accomplished in this world. The loss never goes away. As my children are having children there is the ever present realization that there is a generation forever lost.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

Depression, self destructive behavior, failed relationships, marriages, breast cancer. When I told my children they were devastated and it took a while to re-build their confidence in their mother.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

Whatever is going on in your life, it is temporary! Abortion is forever! You can make it through. There are

Pregnancy Crisis Centers available to assist you physically, emotionally and spiritually. I wonder had there been a PRC available to me would my life have been different?

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

Would you take your innocent infant child or grandchild and cut it to pieces and throw it away? Abortion is no different!

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 7/29/2008

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of White

My name is A H I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Minneapolis MN

07//2006

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

12

3. What type of abortion was performed?

Medical Induced

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I had no idea of the intense emotional and psychological pain I would experience for years after the abortion.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. How has abortion affected you?

It has caused depression, anxiety, feelings of guilt and shame, the inability to forgive myself, the trauma of having to hide a painful secret from my family and problems sleeping.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

It has made it so my family cannot really know me and has burned my marriage.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

It may seem like the best thing to do but you will experience pain later on. It took me several years to grieve the death of my child. That ultimately is what a woman who has had an abortion must come to terms with. There was a baby and that baby is no longer here. It is a terrible realization.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

The practice of abortion is barbaric. The sanctity of life must be respected at all stages. If our country is to be built on human liberty we must choose life for every human being.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 10/25/2010

Please use my Initials Only

Signature

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

If someone you know has had an abortion, encourage them to complete this form.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of Arkansas  
County of Arkansas

"My name is Carol. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

- 1) When and where did your abortion occur, including city and state? Landstuhl, Germany
- 2) How many weeks pregnant were you? 13 What type of abortion was performed? Suction
- 3) Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does? (Check One) ☐ Yes ☒ No If no, explain: I found out I was pregnant, decided to have an abortion, but I had no counseling about it. The next available appointment was made for about a month later.
- 4) Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion? No, not at all. I wish someone had told me. Persuaded me not to do it, to not even consider it.
- 5) Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No Have you had breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- 6) Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, who?
- 7) How has abortion affected you? I was 18 years old and was in the Army stationed in Bad Kruenach, Germany. I had only been in country one month. I had a one-night stand with a married fellow soldier who I was not at all interested in. He was on his way back to the states in about a month. I wanted to keep my baby, but saw no possible way to do that. I never told the guy; I didn't know his real name. I always wanted many children. Since I was a child, so I tried to take care of my baby while I could by talking to her and telling her I was sorry for having to abort her and that I wished I could. →
- 8) How has your abortion affected others in your life? My children didn't have the mother they deserve, my husband didn't have a good wife. I was deranged most of the time.
- 9) Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion? Don't do it. Please don't do it, you will live to regret it just like I do. Keep your child and if you can't raise it, let someone adopt him or her, but please don't for your sake. Kill it.
- 10) Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal? Where would you or your children be now if someone had decided to abort you. Someone saw you as valuable or you would not be here. It's the least you can do for unborn children; choose to give them the benefits you were given.

You may attach additional pages of testimony, if needed.

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.

Please use my: ☒ Full name ☐ First name only ☐ Initials only

Signature: Carol

My signature \_\_\_\_\_ denotes my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes

☐ You may contact me ☐ Do not contact me

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL BY THE JUSTICE FOUNDATION  
(Please print clearly)

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

This form may be duplicated before completing. Forms can be downloaded from: [www.operationoutcry.org](http://www.operationoutcry.org)

Return To: The Justice Foundation • 8122 Datapoint Drive • Suite 812 • San Antonio, TX 78229

Questions? Please call toll-free 1-866-4-OUTCRY (468-8279) Need Help? 1-866-482-LIFE (5433)

Attachment

Carol  
June 21, 2008

(7) Keep her (I felt it might be a little girl). I ate  
right, talked to her and cherished her while  
I had the chance, knowing what I had planned  
to do. I saw no other way, since I had only  
arrived in Germany a month before, and didn't  
have family to support me. I never told any-  
one in my family. I am 46 years old now  
and I deeply regret having killed my  
first born child. He or she would be about  
28 years old now. I have never been able  
to complete anything I've ever begun (besides  
a meal) in my entire life to this day. I  
have had bouts of depression and suicidal  
ideations throughout the years. The guilt never  
leaves me, although I know God has forgiven  
me, I can never forgive myself or excuse  
myself. I wish I had never made that decision.  
I wish abortion had never been an option  
for me. My baby's life was precious and I  
decided to murder her or him, this I'll never  
know, whether it was a boy or girl. I have  
2 children now. A daughter, and a son  
who I love very much. I have been very  
protective of them both to the point of  
getting a job in the schools they attended  
so I could keep them from being harmed and

(1)

Carol

June 27, 2008

I would kill anyone and everyone who ever tried to harm them, I promise you. That's what killing my child has done to me. I have a failed marriage behind me. I've tried to go to college 5 or 6 times over the years and have given up for fear of failure.

I have been and am bulimic. I have tried to kill myself with food. I have overdosed on drugs at least 3 times. I have tried to hang myself once. Tried to cut my wrist once. Abused drugs and sex with many partners. I have hated myself.

~~I have isolated myself from family and friends.~~ I spend most of my time alone.

I am disabled. I have no life (social)

I have my 2 children who are 20 and 18 years old. They are the loves of my life.

They give me the will and want to life.

I'm left to wonder what my life would have been like had I not aborted my child.

When I ended that life, I ended my own.

I had so much potential and it all was wasted when I took my child's life.

(2)

Sincerely,  
Carol

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Benton

My name is Morgan. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Oklahoma City OK

12/14/2002

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

10

3. What type of abortion was performed?

D&C

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. How has abortion affected you?

I suffered severe depression. I cried for no reason at all times. I was sleeping for 20 hours a day, unable to cope with others.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

They've come to terms with my decision, but it still affects daily activities.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

Don't do it. Do anything else you can, tell your parents and loved ones--no matter the consequences.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

That they should have lived with me for the two years I was tryin gto keep it a secret. That they should be forced to live through severe depression, with no one really understanding what they're going through.

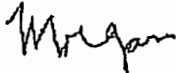
**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 7/1/2008

Please use my First Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION

### HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of pulaski

My name is P O I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

#### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

little rock AR

09//1980

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

8

3. What type of abortion was performed?

I didn't realize there was more than one kind of abortion

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was told that it was just a blob of protoplasm, and not alive. I was told that it couldn't feel pain because it wasn't alive.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

At the time, I didn't realize there would be consequences. I'm not sure if you're referring to physical or emotional consequences.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. How has abortion affected you?

For years, I believed that because it was a blob, no harm done. It wasn't alive, it didn't feel pain, so it wasn't yet a "baby". When I realized that this wasn't true, I felt great shame for many years.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

I only told those who would be supportive. To my knowledge, they didn't think much about it. To this day, my own mother doesn't know. I didn't tell her because she was one of those people who judges, name calls, etc. I was 19, and the father was 33. If I had known the truth, I would have endured all of that rather than live with what I did, which was ordering the murder of my child. I know that there would have been others who would have stood in support of my decision to have the baby, including my father.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

Your baby is alive, and is a real baby at every stage while in the womb. Just because the government

says it's not alive doesn't mean it is so. It has been proven scientifically, as well as spiritually that the baby is alive the very second it is conceived. It's human at every stage.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

Stop lying to women about the child not being able to feel pain, and about it not being "real" until it's three months old. It's deceptive and cruel to the child as well as the mother. The government has no business keeping this fact from the mothers. The mothers are already confused and scared—deception only enforces the guilt that comes later, and never goes away. Telling these women the truth is the only fair thing to do. Take the responsibility that goes with our position. Women deserve better.

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 6/22/2009

Please use my Initials Only

Signature

P O

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☐ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

# DECLARATION

## HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Crittenden

My name is Dickle , I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Memphis TN

//1976

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

6

3. What type of abortion was performed?

I don't remember

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was told that it was not a life. I did not realize then what I know now.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was told there would not be any after effects and of course then I only thought of the physical effects.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. How has abortion affected you?

I have trouble having a relationship with my husband. I don't like to be around babies and I do not want to hold one. I have numbness on my left side and I feel like it is a result of that. I have lower abdomen pain all the time and I feel like that is also a result. The mental effects seem as if they will never go away. I have had 2 abortions.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

I really don't think my husband realizes how I have been affected. We don't talk about it. I don't think he understands the reason for my lack of interest in a physical relationship.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

First that she is taking the life of a human being. I would tell her that God condemns murder. That He is the Creator of all things and He created that child she is carrying. I would tell her how it has affected me even though I know that God forgave me when I was saved. I would ask her to consider adoption rather than abortion.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

If I could go back, I would not have had either abortion. I would go through with my pregnancy. I would have sought good Biblical counseling. I would tell them that the physical effects and the mental effects last a lifetime. I would explain that I have not been able to fulfill my duties as a wife. I would explain to them there is such great mental anguish.

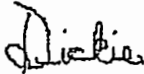
**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 1/21/2009

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

# DECLARATION

## HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AZ

County of Pima

My name is Darlene . I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Bethesda MD

09/09/1978

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

8

3. What type of abortion was performed?

Suction

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was told that all that was inside me was a blob of tissue.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

The only information I received was to contact a doctor if I had continued bleeding or pain.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. How has abortion affected you?

As soon as the abortion began, I began to feel sick to my stomach. As it continued, I knew without a doubt that I was killing a child, that it was not a mere blob of tissue as they had said. At this point, I wanted to stop it, but I believed it was too late and that the damage was done. For years I had to carry the guilt of killing my own child. I later carried four children and with each child, for nine months, I was consumed with guilt over the murder of my first child. Make no mistake, abortion IS murder. Even after 30 years, the pain still lingers.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

Most women I know feel bad about having had abortions. What I have found most interesting is that many women will condone and defend abortion because if they admit it is wrong, they will have to admit they were wrong. They don't want to face what they have done.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

I would tell her that she will live to regret it. I would inform her that there are many resources out there that would help her and her child. I would tell her there are many, many people out there who would love

to have a baby, and can't who would be happy to raise their child. I am so convinced that abortion is wrong that I have offered to help raise the children of many young girls who were considering abortion. Oddly enough, when many young girls hear that you would be willing to take and raise the child, they realize the value of that child, and they keep it rather than kill it.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

I would tell the court that abortion is murder, and that all you have to do is have one to know that. I would tell the court that murder is murder, and nobody has the right to take the life of an innocent. I would tell the court that just because a woman is carrying a child no more gives her the right to kill it, than she would have if she had already delivered the child. I would tell the court that by allowing women to kill their children, they are not only killing the children, but they are damaging the women/girls, and society as a whole. The less value life has in the womb equals the less value life has outside the womb.

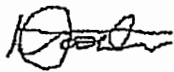
#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 7/19/2008

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Benton

My name is ROxane ..... I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Toronto Canada

12/20/1994

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

10

3. What type of abortion was performed?

"therapic DNC"

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. How has abortion affected you?

I thought by doing this, was the quick fix, permanent fix. I did not realize it would haunt me forever. Everytime I see a child playing or hold a baby in my arms. It has only been the last two year with God's Strentht that I am able to even speak of it. That's after 3 therapists and thousands of depression pills. Some say that I may have been depressed anyway. But it isn't a happenstance that since I have finely opened up and dealin with what I have done that I have not been on anti-depressants.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

Have you ever lived with someone that is always depressed. I look back and I believe my children have suffered more than me. I did not give them the love that they deserved, due to I thought that it was unfair to the one I never gave a chance to.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

It isn't a fix to a problem. It's the start of the worst choice of your life.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

As I do believe that a woman has the right over her own body and the choices of the life. The baby's rights need to be protected.

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 6/17/2008

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☐ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Van Buren

My name is Maria . . . . . I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Little Rock AR

01/24/1994

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

8

3. What type of abortion was performed?

Vacuum

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was not counseled or advised by the staff as to the nature of the abortion.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was not informed at all by any of the staff about consequences involved with abortion.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. How has abortion affected you?

Depression, alcohol abuse, guilt, pain, insecurity, fear, isolation. I felt like I committed murder but it was legal.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

Neglect of children that were living because of the guilt of the unborn life I had taken. Marital discord, anger in relationships

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

Abortion is NOT the easy way out. It will affect you for the rest of your life.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

Lives are at stake. Women who survive the abortion suffer and repress the suffering for many years. Leading to depression, drug abuse, and parental and marital discord and unhealthy relationships.

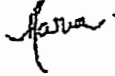
**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 8/16/2008

Please use my Full Name

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hana", written in black ink.

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

If someone you know has had an abortion, encourage them to complete this form.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of ARKANSAS  
County of Benton

"My name is Denise. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

- 1) When and where did your abortion occur, including city and state? California-1991 Arkansas 1998  
 2) How many weeks pregnant were you? don't remember What type of abortion was performed? Not partial birth  
 3) Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does? (Check One) ☒ Yes ☐ No If no, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion? Yes

5) Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No Have you had breast cancer? ☒ Yes ☐ No

6) Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, who? \_\_\_\_\_

7) How has abortion affected you? The guilt, pain, and periods of depression overwhelm me. I would like to think that I would have acted differently if abortion wasn't such an easy option. Women are overwhelmed with emotion when they discover an unexpected pregnancy. If we can change our laws and society to embrace women at this critical time, we can change lives. Not help.

8) How has your abortion affected others in your life? My husband, my children.

9) Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion? I would tell her that there are programs that she may not know about. Those programs are not as known as abortion clinics.

10) Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal? It is simple - the fetus is a life - nobody has the right to choose if he/she lives or dies. Don't let women think that this is acceptable. The laws dictate peoples' point of view.

You may attach additional pages of testimony, if needed.

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this 17 day of June, 2008.

Please use my: ☐ Full name ☒ First name only ☐ Initials only

Signature: Denise

☒ You may contact me ☐ Do not contact me Confidentially

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL BY THE JUSTICE FOUNDATION**

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

This form may be duplicated before completing. Forms can be downloaded from [www.operationoutcry.org](http://www.operationoutcry.org)

Return To: The Justice Foundation, 8122 Datapoint Drive, Suite 812, San Antonio, TX 78229

Questions? Please call toll-free 1-866-4-OUTCRY (468-8279). Need Help? 1-866-482-LIFE (5433).

**AFFIDAVIT**

(Questions For WOMEN Who Have Undergone Abortion)

The State of

AR

County of

LonokeBEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared C S (Print Name), who, being by me duly sworn, upon oath, stated the following facts:

"I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this affidavit, and I do solemnly swear, or affirm, that the following facts are true:

- 1) Tell when and where your abortion occurred: When I was about 20, in 1999, in North Little Rock, AR.
- 2) Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does? If not, explain: no, I had no clue, I just knew I could have there and not be pregnant anymore
- 3) Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion? no
- 4) Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer? Have you had breast cancer? no, had no idea - no I have not
- 5) Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion? If so, who? no
- 6) How has your abortion affected you? I turned to drugs to mask my pain and became severely addicted, became involved with violent men
- 7) How has your abortion affected others in your life? became estranged from immediate family, pushed my daughter away because I felt guilty for having her.
- 8) Based on your own experiences, what would you tell a woman thinking of having an abortion? it will negatively change your life forever, can never be taken back
- 9) Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal? it has long-term effects on the mothers of these babies, not only is it killing innocent babies but ruining the lives of the mothers forever unless they get counseling, and most do not

"I have read the above and foregoing statement and the same is true and correct."



Print Your Full  
Address, City, &

Please

My signature evidences my authorization to use this affidavit for all purposes.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, the undersigned authority, this the 24 day of Feb, 2007.

D. Vikki Parker  
NOTARY PUBLIC

If someone you know has had an abortion, encourage them to complete this form.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of Arkansas  
County of Miller

"My name is Adrian. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

- 1) When and where did your abortion occur, including city and state? Dallas TX Oct-2001
- 2) How many weeks pregnant were you? 5 What type of abortion was performed? ?
- 3) Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does? (Check One) ☐ Yes ☒ No If no, explain: They told me it was an ultrasound but I had my questions and that was it.
- 4) Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion? NO
- 5) Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No Have you had breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 6) Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, who?
- 7) How has abortion affected you? It has caused major depression and it turned to drugs & drinking to deal with the pain. I became very bitter and unhappy with life. The man was deeply hurt that he didn't have a girl. That it was his child. 8 years later I still think of that baby and what he or she might look like. My mother was very hurt by it also. But thank God for his son to be a blessing in our lives.
- 8) How has your abortion affected others in your life? yes - mother.
- 9) Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion? That it is a baby from the moment the sperm & egg meet. There is plans and a destiny for that child. It is a blessing.
- 10) Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal? That it is wrong and it does affect the emotional part of humans and should not be an option for any woman. A whole generation has been killed by the hands of those who live.

You may attach additional pages of testimony, if needed, to help them.

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this 29 day of September, 2008.

Please use my: ☐ Full name ☒ First name only ☐ Initials only

Signature: Adrian

☒ You may contact me ☐ Do not contact me

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL BY THE JUSTICE FOUNDATION  
(Please print clearly)

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

This form may be duplicated before completing. Forms can be downloaded from: [www.operationoutcry.org](http://www.operationoutcry.org)

Return To: The Justice Foundation · 8122 Datapoint Drive · Suite 812 · San Antonio, TX 78229

Questions? Please call toll-free 1-866-4-OUTCRY (468-8279). Need Help? 1-866-462-LIFE (5433)

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR  
County of Greene

My name is Brooklyn. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Little Rock AR

03/09/2012

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

14

3. What type of abortion was performed?

D&C

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I did not know and was not explained to that the limbs of my baby would be ripped apart and out. Dr. Tvedten performed the abortion on me. Other than coming in and saying that if I felt like I was going into labor I needed to inform someone and that I would sit there and have to wait 2 hours that is all he said to me.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Noone informed me of the emotional and psychological side effects at all.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. How has abortion affected you?

I live with this regret and guilt every single day of my life. My due date, holidays, special occasions etc. have all been very hard for me to deal with. My babies 1 year bday is coming up soon and I am already dreading that day. When I go to the OBGYN dr. I feel like I am going to have a panic attack because the sight of instruments and the exam table everything about going to the dr. brings back so many flashbacks.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

I don't know if it has or not.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

I would tell her to please not go through with this because you will regret it for the rest of your life. I know it feels as though there are no other options but there are and I would help her figure it all out. Its def. not something you want to live with.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

It is murder just the same as taking a gun and shooting someone. You are killing a human

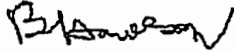
**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 5/3/2013

Please use my First Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL BY THE JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Name  
Brooklyn

Phone Number

Address

Email Address

You may contact me

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

**ARKANSAS**

**TESTIMONIES UNDER 12 WEEKS GESTATION**

**FORCED ABORTIONS**

## DECLARATION

### HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Woodruff

My name is Rila I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

#### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Little Rock AR

//1997

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

11

3. What type of abortion was performed?

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My mother

9. How has abortion affected you?

grew up bitter and angry!! I was 15 years old when I had the abortion. My mother told me that I was not going to make her an unfit mother, I guess she thought that was best thing for me not considering what it done to my spirit.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

lived a life of shame and guilt and been angry at my children without realizing how I was hurting them. not been able to love them the way I should.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

don't do it. because regardless if they tell you that it is only a fetus. it is a spirit, and children are a heritage of the Lord.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

regardless what they say, it is murder to me and I don't want to stand in front of the Lord saying I killed my child, and you just open the door for the enemy to torture you. It does more damage to your spirit then you realize and if you don't have the Lord as your foundation you're really in trouble.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 7/17/2012

Please use my First Name

Signature

*Rita*

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Lonoke

My name is Paulette I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Little Rock AR

01/11/1995

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

6

3. What type of abortion was performed?

vacuum aspiration

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was told instruments would be much like when having a pap smear and the contents of my uterus would be suctioned out.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was told of no after effects physical or emotional

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My mother

9. How has abortion affected you?

For 12 years I had depression, nightmares, difficult bonding with my subsequent children, use of prescription drugs to numb the pain, a mild nervous break down, anger issues, low self esteem, self-hate.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

Because of my anger issues I often lashed out at my husband and children. My husband has had to help me through my depression and my feeling of wanting to die.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

That life never goes back to normal. That you are simply trading one set of challenges for another. That everytime you look at a family portrait one person will be missing. You will one day realize that you have killed your baby and that realization will be a hard one to face.

36

**12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?**

All life is created equal, born and unborn. That women will suffer much more damage from abortion, physically, emotionally and spiritually than from being carrying and delivering a child.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

**"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."**

Executed this date: 12/21/2010

**Please use my Full Name**

**Signature**

Paul H.

**My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.**

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

legal?

Women make the choice to act on their lust and have sex or not. After that choice is made, if a life is created, then that baby should have the chance to live. The mother can choose to give her child to someone else to love, but she should not be able to destroy life, because she had already made a bad choice in having sex.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 6/9/2009

Please use my Full Name

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gail", written over a horizontal line.

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Benton

My name is Barbara I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

//

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

6

3. What type of abortion was performed?

none

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was pregnant out of wedlock and abortion was offered to me as a choice. I chose to marry my husband of 28 years and we have a total of 4 children. I now hold in my arms my 1st Grandson from my oldest daughter, whom I could have ended her life, if I had chose to do so. What an impact on society and my life that would have been. Should we really have the right to destroy life or should our choice stop at if we should have sex that creates life? Thank God, I kept her!

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My family

9. How has abortion affected you?

Choosing Not to have an abortion has given me a Grandson and a wonderful daughter that I would never have had!

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

My daughter has an Accounting Degree, is a trusting, loyal friend, a wife, a mother and an active part in the Church and the community. She touches many lives every day.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

My choice was to have sex. My daughter and Grandson were results of that choice. To destroy that baby within me would have destroyed some of the best of my life!

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Greene

My name is Kellie . I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Memphis TN

08//1983

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

3

3. What type of abortion was performed?

not sure what it was called. They used a machine.

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was told I would no longer be pregnant. That's about it.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Mother

9. How has abortion affected you?

Many ways. I was not given a choice by my mother & was told to keep it a secret. At the time it made me feel dirty. As I got older and learned more about abortions I was then mentally & emotionally distraught at what I had done. Even though my mother did not give me any other option it was I who had the abortion and I was ashamed and felt like a murderer. I carried all this around with me for many, many years.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

It didn't seem to affect anyone else in my life because at the time my mother was the only one who knew. Didn't phase her at all. Later in years when I began to talk about it as an adult it didn't seem to affect anyone then either.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

DO NOT DO IT. It is a life forming inside you. A life that was not asked to be put there. It is your responsibility to carry that child whether you intend to raise the baby or adopt it out. Abortion is wrong. You do not realize the aftermath of an abortion. Not only will you kill a child but you yourself will be

emotionally and mentally damaged from it.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

If you have never had an abortion or know of someone that has then how could you possibly know the affects it has. You know that it's taking a life away but it goes much further than that. It is emotionally & mentally damaging. At the time a person has one I don't think they always realize that..maybe because they are young or just haven't given it that much deep thought. Every child needs a chance in this world whether the person who is carrying the child wants to give that baby a chance or not.

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 1/11/2012

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Garland

My name is L. G. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Little Rock AR

01/01/1979

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

11

3. What type of abortion was performed?

?

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I wasn't told anything. I was just lead around and told what to do.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

No one in the clinic seem to care about that.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☒ Yes ☐ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My friends

9. How has abortion affected you?

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about it and ask God to forgive me. I feel so guilty.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

No.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

I would tell her not to do it. I would tell her that she will find a way to take care of and love her baby with God's help or to consider giving up the baby to a loving couple that would love to love it. I would tell her that she will never forgive herself if she goes through with an abortion.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

I would tell the court to consider the mental well being of women, that having an abortion preys on your conscience forever, not just a few days. I would tell the court to consider the millions of couples

patiently waiting for a child to adopt to love as their own.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 1/12/2012

Please use my Initials Only

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Crawford

My name is Kristi . I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Little Rock AR

08/06/1990

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

7

3. What type of abortion was performed?

Vacuum aspiration

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

The only thing I understood is I would no longer be pregnant after the procedure.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

No one told me that there could and/or would be consequences physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

boyfriend, parents and myself

9. How has abortion affected you?

After my abortion I shut down. I acted in ways that were damaging to my health by drinking, pursesly dating guys who were mentally and emotionally abusive because I thought that is what I deserved. For years I fought anger and depression issues not realizing that it was connected to my abortion. Most of all I know that I am a mother to my aborted child and now know that I should have chosen life for her.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

My mom still has a difficult time forgiving herself for her part in my abortion. My husband who is not the father to my child had to pay some consequences to a choice he had nothing to do with because of how it affected me.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

I would give her intense details of what will actually be taking place and furthermore details of how her life WILL change should she choose abortion.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

Abortion HURTS women terribly for years and years after the abortion. But it also hurts men as well. The emotional affects can harm a womans ability to mother her living children. It can tear marriages apart. It can and does cause women to inflict pain on themselves as well as suicide.

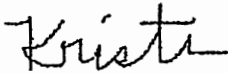
#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 11/3/2010

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION

### HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Pike

My name is Crystal . I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

#### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Little Rock AR

09/06/1984

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

7

3. What type of abortion was performed?

suction, I guess.....I dont know the clinical name for it

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I didn't know that it would be so violent to the baby, I thought it would be a painless procedure, not that the baby would be suctioned out and torn to bits in the process.....I thought it would be like putting someone to sleep or something, I really DIDN'T think about it after I made the decision. I was seventeen.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

my boyfriend who was also my fiance

9. How has abortion affected you?

I was a christian in my heart who'd had a rough upbringing and didn't feel wanted at home, having the baby at home was not an option because my mom was determined to get me out of the house, I knew she didn't want a screaming baby there on top of me there.....the boyfriend told me if I didn't have the abortion he'd hit me in the stomach and make me miscarry and if that didn't work he'd abuse the child once it was here.....so I gave the baby back to God where it would be wanted and safe.....how it affected me? I hated myself, I am a murderer and I used to think I was a good person.....it was an innocent baby that had never harmed a person in it's life because it didn't have a life. I stayed high for years mentally running from it, I didn't think I deserved children after and I hated listening to people talk about

their kids....I was seventeen when I had that abortion.....I never would have kids with that man after that....and he wouldn't let me go until I finally put a state line between us nine years later.....took me years to finally deal with what I had done.....YEARS!

**10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?**

In MY life? How can one know? My father was heartbroken, I think my mother was relieved.....the boyfriend? He was happy he'd never have to worry about child support and his mother decided it must not have been meant to be.....the real question is, how did it affect the lives that baby might have touched? that's the real question. and no one will ever know will they?

**11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?**

I have already talked one out of it. She had a baby already and I asked her if she could look into the eyes of her baby and rip it apart from limb to limb and kill it knowing how innocent it was and how much it loved her? because that's what the process I encountered did, it was suction, it was violent....she changed her mind and had her baby.....If we did that to hardened criminals people would be up in arms....I told the girl she could give the baby up for adoption so some other people who couldn't have kids could take care of it.....I told her how she would always think of the baby if she killed it.....I'm glad she changed her mind.

**12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?**

I would tell them that the truth is, most of the time it isn't the young girl making the choice to have an abortion. Many times she is marched there by some boyfriend who didn't want to be responsible for a child or some parent who doesn't want to sully the family name.....I would tell them that this country guarantees the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and the right to life begins at conception because stopping the life of the baby in the place that should be the safest place in the world for it is STILL stopping the life of the baby and that's a fact they cannot deny.....

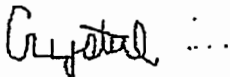
**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 6/17/2008

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

# DECLARATION

## HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Washington

My name is Kar. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Bellevue WA

09/16/1980

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

10

3. What type of abortion was performed?

suction aspiration

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I was 16. It was surreal. I knew I was pregnant, even picked out a name, but after counselors talked me through the negative consequences for my future, I somehow justified the abortion, and did not think about the affects on my child. Choosing to not think about the actual act. I made myself believe the spirit of my child would still exist in order to go through with it.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I did not understand the emotional pain, guilt, and shame that I would carry with me for the rest of my life.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My father, the counselor

9. How has abortion affected you?

My need for love & attention only intensified after the abortion. With my fairytale ideal of motherhood broken, I spent ten years in promiscuity and short term relationships. I had pledged to myself I would never do that again, regardless of my circumstances, and so ended up marrying when I became pregnant again at 24. When my son was born, I knew in that instant, what a miracle had just happened. There was no way a messed up, self-centered girl could have ever created something so perfect. Divorced after 3 years, with two children, I began to seek healing. I put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ at 28, and my life was changed forever. However, this still did not force me to address what I had done. It wasn't polite to discuss a past abortion, so it wasn't until I watched the story of a mother who murdered her two tiny children by drowning them in her car, that I realized I had been no different.

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The shock and horror that the nation expressed toward this mother, should have been directed at me as well. I was screaming inside to tell the world I was a murderer. I am thankful I have found grace and mercy in Christ. I am forgiven, but I still have a long way to go to be truly healed of the experience. I do not condemn anyone for past decisions, but long for the truth of abortion to be proclaimed, and for healing to begin for all women and men who have been deceived about abortion, and what it really is.

**10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?**

My Parents, and sisters were greatly traumatized by my choices, and the consequences. My husband now is very supportive of me, and very willing to help me work through, and hopefully help others who have had, or who are contemplating abortion.

**11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?**

No matter what the circumstances of their situation, I would ask them to please consider making the better sacrifice of NOT choosing to end the life you have growing inside. Look at the real truth of pregnancy. It is a baby, not a lifeless blob; undeserving of care, and love. There are people and places that can help you. Whether you decide to keep the child yourself, or place her in a loving home, the temporary sacrifices of time, money, physical change, or shame are far less than the pain and suffering you inflict on yourself, and your child for the rest of your life. The real choice to make, is choosing life over death.

**12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?**

I believe that abortion at any stage is the intentional murder of another human being. I believe you cannot make the excuse of saving women's lives from back alley abortion hack jobs, to justify legalized murder. Not one person has a higher right to life than another. Women are being deceived. Education about pregnancy, and standing beside women of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds who are pregnant, no matter what the circumstances, should be where we focus our resources.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 6/3/2009

Please use my Full Name

Signature

*Kori*

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of White

My name is Sandra. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Searcy AR

04//1979

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

8

3. What type of abortion was performed?

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

They just took me into the hospital and it was done.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

I don't think they understood all of it back then.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My mother, and boyfriend

9. How has abortion affected you?

I am over weight sometimes not a very happy person to live with.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

They don't all know and my husband knows and knows that is why I am not always happy. About 6 years ago my husband surrendered to Preach and I have a problem. I can't work and do the things I should do in church, because I don't feel worthy and forgiven even though I know I have been.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

DON'T PLEASE DON'T. It is something you will never get over I was 17 and now I am 50 and I still remember and can't forgive myself and have a problem working in the church.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

I don't know I could without breaking. It is a horrible thing to do the women and babies. It has lasting effects for years mentally and physical.

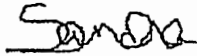
**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 5/15/2012

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of benton

My name is j h. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

fayetteville AR

01/08/1996

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

7

3. What type of abortion was performed?

don't know

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

They simply took a wand ultra sound which they didn't show me and they didn't tell me anything else except the basic fact of the procedure- it would terminate the pregnancy.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Of course they told me it would end the pregnancy, however they didn't inform me of any risks involved from a health and emotional standpoint.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My boyfriend at the time strongly recommended it

9. How has abortion affected you?

For the next 1 1/2 years after the abortion, it completely ruined me emotionally and spiritually. This one friend reached out to me and brought me to a church revival and it was at this time I gave it all over to God and then forgave myself and accepted the forgiveness Jesus gave.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

no one in my family has ever known

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

I would strongly recommend she seeks counsel- preferably Christian support to help better understand the damage of abortion.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be

legal?

Even if you aren't a Christian, abortion is just wrong. Life truly begins when conception takes place and there isn't any question on this fact. It damages the body, mind, spirit and so much more in a girl . . . there is no question that abortion should be illegal.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 7/30/2008

Please use my Initials Only

Signature

J H

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION

### HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of USA

My name is Shalene. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

#### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Little Rock AR

//

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

3. What type of abortion was performed?

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

No one told me that I would have a tremendous sense of guilt and worthlessness afterwards. No one told me that it would affect the rest of my adult life.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My mother

9. How has abortion affected you?

I have not been able to forget it, I have committed so many immoral acts just to gain a feeling of acceptance. I feel that I will never get past this feeling of failure and self loathing. I have become so numb inside, I don't feel like a real person anymore. I am just alive because I am breathing. I don't have any enjoyment in life. I have a 4 year old, and the majority of the time, I am just going through the motions. I don't have the emotions that a mother should have because all those emotions died when my aborted children died.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

Inside, I am distrustful of everyone, and I know that is unhealthy; but I long for affection and acceptance and have lived a dangerous lifestyle trying to find it.

54

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

Don't. I don't know if a person can fully understand the trauma abortion causes. It is a traumatic experience that I have to think about all the time and I sincerely believe it is the root of all my disfunctionality.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

It seems to be so easy to justify the legality or illegality of an issue because we live in an age of such moral decay. I think it is important for us as people to realize that abortion is murder. No matter how you look at it, the baby will die. How then can abortion be legal? It is just another word for murder. I feel responsible because I committed murder and have gone without punishment; I know God forgives me, but I have such a hard time forgiving myself. We will never live in a perfect world; but until we stop this killing of unborn children, our nation will always suffer. God only forgives when you come to him humbly and ask. Those who would keep abortion forever legal are not asking for forgiveness but instead openly promoting death, murder, and sin. What must God think? How can we expect to live in peace when our leaders flaunt sin in the face of a holy god. The ways of the liberal courts are not working. Step out on faith and do what is right. Don't allow abortion to be legal; overturn Roe v. Wade.

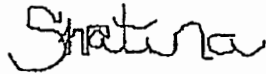
#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 6/17/2008

Please use my Full Name

Signature



My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Miller

My name is Susan I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Texarkana TX

03/15/1986

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

5

3. What type of abortion was performed?

received a shot and contents scraped out on exam table

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☐ Yes ☒ No

My dad took me to this OB/GYN clinic and I was not even aware I was pregnant or anything that was taking place.

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

See above.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Dad

9. How has abortion affected you?

I feel very betrayed because my dad did this to me. I was not even aware I was for sure pregnant until 9 years later when as an adult I requested my medical records. I was given no information or choice about anything. I endured extreme physical pain in the waiting room as the "shot" took effect and then the contents were scraped out on an exam table. I can only imagine the pain women have that choose abortion if I have had this much pain when I had no choice.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

I have struggled with trust and fear of abandonment issues that affected my intimate relationships.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

Not to do it. There are plenty of other alternatives.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be

56

legal?

They are making something legal that is detrimental to mankind, both the killed babies and the living people left to grieve this awful procedure.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 6/9/2009

Please use my First Name

Signature

*Susan*

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☒ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of AR

County of Benton

My name is L S I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

### QUESTIONS

1. Where and when did your abortion occur?

Tulsa OK

07//1984

2. How many weeks pregnant were you?

7

3. What type of abortion was performed?

4. Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does?

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

No one told me how i would feel later.I did not want the abortion,my parents made me.I had no choice.

6. Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

7. Have you had breast cancer?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion?

☒ Yes ☐ No

My parents

9. How has abortion affected you?

Afterwards I didn't care about myself and would not eat.I lost about 60 to 70 pounds in three months.I even tried to kill myself.

10. How has your abortion affected others in your life?

Luckly I met someone and we feel in love,got married,and have two kids.But none of that would have been possible if my husband hadn't been a church going man. He helped me and lead me to the Lord.

11. Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion?

Don't do it.There are other options.

12. Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal?

It only makes women feel dirty and have no selfworth.

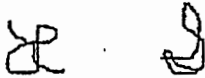
### PERSONAL INFORMATION

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this date: 8/4/2008

Please use my Initials Only

Signature

Handwritten initials 'JR' and a signature.

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes.

☐ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

8 59

If someone you know has had an abortion, encourage them to complete this form.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of Arkansas  
County of Cross

"My name is Lisa. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

- 1) When and where did your abortion occur, including city and state? Lincoln NE '84 / Omaha NE '88  
2) How many weeks pregnant were you? 7 WKS. What type of abortion was performed? suction  
3) Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does? (Check One) ☐ Yes ☒ No If no, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion? No

5) Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No Have you had breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No

6) Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, who? Parent

7) How has abortion affected you?

Feelings of guilt, shame, depression, unworthiness, regret & remorse.

8) How has your abortion affected others in your life? It has created a wedge between my husband and I that only God can heal.

9) Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion? To be educated about her decision. To get all the facts about the actual procedure and what it will do to her life afterwards.

10) Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal? Be educated about what you consider legal. How does this effect people. Is this in the best interest of women? Of men? Of families?

You may attach additional pages of testimony, if needed.

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this 27 day of September, 2009.

Please use my: ☐ Full name ☒ First name only ☐ Initials only

Signature: Lisa

☐ You may contact me ☒ Do not contact me

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL BY THE JUSTICE FOUNDATION  
(Please print clearly)

This form may be duplicated before completing. Forms can be downloaded from [www.operationoutcry.org](http://www.operationoutcry.org)

Return To: The Justice Foundation, 8122 Datapoint Drive, Suite 812, San Antonio, TX 78229

Questions? Please call toll-free 1-866-4-OUTCRY (468-9279). Need Help? 1-866-482-LIFE (5433)

60

**AFFIDAVIT**

(Questions For WOMEN Who Have Undergone Abortion)

The State of ARCounty of WhiteBEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared I D (Print Name), who, being by me duly sworn, upon oath, stated the following facts:

"I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this affidavit, and I do solemnly swear, or affirm, that the following facts are true:

- 1) Tell when and where your abortion occurred: Little Rock 1994
- 2) Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does? If not, explain: NO, especially not the emotional consequences.
- 3) Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion? NO
- 4) Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer? Have you had breast cancer? NO
- 5) Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion? If so, who? YES, husband
- 6) How has your abortion affected you? long term guilt, sadness
- 7) How has your abortion affected others in your life? not my true self
- 8) Based on your own experiences, what would you tell a woman thinking of having an abortion? That she is likely to regret that choice, it goes against her will, can be physically & emotionally damaging.
- 9) Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal? It is damaging to lives

"I have read the above and foregoing statement and the same is true and correct."



D. Vikki Parker  
My signature evidences my authorization to use this affidavit for all purposes.

Subscribed AND SWORN TO before me, the undersigned authority, this the 24 day of Feb., 2007

D. Vikki Parker  
NOTARY PUBLIC

If someone you know has had an abortion, encourage them to complete this form.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of ARKANSAS  
County of PULASKI

"My name is D S. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

- 1) When and where did your abortion occur, including city and state? Little Rock, ARKANSAS
- 2) How many weeks pregnant were you? 7-8 wks What type of abortion was performed? Suction/Aspiration
- 3) Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does? (Check One) ☐ Yes ☒ No If no, explain: I did not realize that the fetus was as developed at this stage as it is. At the time I knew what I was doing was gravely wrong, but too fearful and not aware of alternatives/resources that could have helped me. Did not know where to turn to the only person besides me that knew of the problem.
- 4) Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion? NO
- 5) Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No Have you had breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No and listened to the only person besides me that knew of the problem.
- 6) Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, who? the father
- 7) How has abortion affected you? Severely depressed. Did not allow myself to let the abortion come to the surface for 12 yrs. When finally I had to deal with it or else self-destructing. It took me another 12 years to work through being forgiven by God + lastly to forgive myself. I still mourn the loss of my child which I will until I go to my grave.
- 8) How has your abortion affected others in your life? my husband + my children have had to deal w/ a depressed mother + w/ my ability to love fully has been affected due to grief and focus on self
- 9) Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion? NOT TO CONSIDER IT. Make an adoption plan for your baby and be accepting of your role as a mother.
- 10) Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal? I would NOT have sought an illegal abortion if it had not been legal. Other than myself, I blame everyone my country for allowing killing to occur of the innocent unborn. Shame on US!!

You may attach additional pages of testimony, if needed.

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this 4 day of March, 2008.

Please use my: ☐ Full name ☐ First name only ☒ Initials only

Signature: [Signature]

☒ You may contact me ☐ Do not contact me

my children do not know of my abortion

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes

THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL INFORMATION IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL BY THE JUSTICE FOUNDATION

☐ I also authorize The Justice Foundation to file Friend of the Court briefs on my behalf to ban or restrict abortion.

This form may be duplicated before completing. Forms can be downloaded from [www.operationourstory.org](http://www.operationourstory.org)

Return To: The Justice Foundation, 8122 Datapoint Drive, Suite 812, San Antonio, TX 78229

Questions? Please call toll-free 1-866-4-OUTCRY (468-8279). Need Help? 1-866-482-LIFE (5433)

If someone you know has had an abortion, encourage them to complete this form.

## DECLARATION HOW MY ABORTION AFFECTED ME

The State of Arkansas  
County of Lonoke

"My name is Melissa. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

- 1) When and where did your abortion occur, including city and state? Houston, TX
- 2) How many weeks pregnant were you? 8 WKS What type of abortion was performed? I am not sure
- 3) Were you adequately informed of the nature of abortion, what it is, what it does? (Check One) ☐ Yes ☒ No If no, explain: They never referred to the baby as a "baby". It was cells and tissue. I believe once they even called it a mass.
- 4) Were you adequately informed of the consequences of abortion? No. The nurse even talked about her two abortions and how it's no big deal. You do it and go on life as usual.
- 5) Were you informed of any link between abortion and breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No Have you had breast cancer? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- 6) Did anyone pressure you into having an abortion? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, who? My friend
- 7) How has abortion affected you? I went into a deep depression for probably 5-6 years. I convinced myself I couldn't be a good mother to the children I already have because I chose to destroy my child. I wanted the Dr. to stop but I was so sedated all I could do was cry.
- 8) How has your abortion affected others in your life? My children. I did think I was a good mother so I would keep my distance.
- 9) Based upon your experience, what would you tell a woman considering abortion? If you don't want the baby adoption. There is not a day that goes by I don't think of the innocent baby I destroyed.
- 10) Based on your own experience, what would you tell a court that believes abortion should be legal? They're foolish. It's not only murder it causes so much pain & grief. Depression. I almost lost my child after the abortion because of damage to my uterus. I eventually had to have a hysterectomy. Sex was painful (physically). You feel like less of a woman. It's been 8 yrs and the pain still lays heavy on my heart.

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed this 20 day of June, 2008.

Please use my: ☒ Full name ☐ First name only ☐ Initials only

Signature: Melissa

☒ You may contact me ☐ Do not contact me

My signature evidences my authorization to use this declaration for all purposes

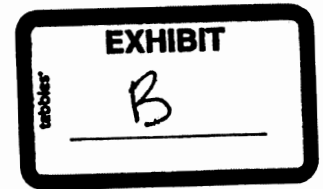
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(Please print clearly)

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Return To: The Justice Foundation, 8122 Datapoint Drive, Suite 812, San Antonio, TX 78229

Questions? Please call toll free 1-866-4-OUTCRY (468-6279). Need Help? 1-866-482-LIFE (5433)



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
CENTRAL DIVISION

LITTLE ROCK FAMILY PLANNING  
SERVICES, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LARRY JEGLEY, ET AL.,

Defendants.

CONCEPTS OF TRUTH, INC., an Arkansas  
Non-profit Corporation, and  
GEORGE CONNER, III, M.D.

Intervenors.

Case No. 4:21-CV-453-KGB

**ANSWER**

COMES NOW, proposed Intervenors, Concepts of Truth, Inc. and George Conner, III, M.D., and as an Answer to Plaintiffs' Complaint, state and allege as follows:

1. Intervenors deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 1.
2. Intervenors deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 2, in part, but admit to the passage of Act 309 to be codified as A.C.A. § 5-61-401 et seq.
3. Intervenors deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 3.
4. Intervenors admit the language found in *Casey*, but deny the remainder of the allegations contained in Paragraph 4 in that the language of *Casey* in which the Court stated that "a State may not prohibit any woman from making the ultimate decision to terminate her pregnancy before viability," represents an implicit understanding that the liberty interest protected by *Roe* was that "the 14th Amendment concept of personal liberty . . . is broad enough

to encompass a woman's decision whether *or not* to terminate her pregnancy.” *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 153 (1973).

5. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 5.

6. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 6.

7. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 7.

8. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 8 in that Act 309 is not an attack on the lives of Arkansas women, but rather an act for the preservation of human life beginning at conception as can be attested by parents like Bert Pohl, who with his wife have adopted three frozen embryos, not their biological children, and raised them as their own though the children were fertilized and viable outside the womb of their natural mother, as attested to in the declaration of Mr. Pohl attached hereto **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference.

9. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 9 in that Act 309 will not inflict immediate and irreparable harm particularly upon black women, but will preserve the health and well-being of women, particularly black women and women with few, if any, financial resources, from the emotional and psychological trauma associated with the abortion procedure provided by Plaintiffs suffered by their patients and their families and who would benefit from the elimination of abortion as an alternative to childbirth as can be attested to by women like Melinda Chisum, a black woman resident of Arkansas who experienced an abortion at the age of 16 in a Little Rock clinic due to misrepresentations made during counseling regarding the physical and psychological impact of the procedure, the impact on the black community in particular, the depression, suicidal ideations and prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse that follows, as attested to by Ms. Chisum in a declaration attached hereto and **Exhibit B** and incorporated herein by reference.

10. As a request for relief, no answer is required.

11. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 11 in that the issues raised by Plaintiffs in their Complaint are not ripe for decision and therefore this Court has no subject matter jurisdiction.

12. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 12.

13. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 13.

14. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 14 in that as a Professional Limited Liability Company formed as a domestic LLC under the law of the State of Arkansas, that provides abortions, and as such is subject to the provisions of A.C.A. § 4-32-1401 as an LLC that “will engage in the practice of medicine,” Plaintiff LFRP is required to comply with “the statutes of the Medical Corporation Act,” A.C.A. § 4-29-301 et seq. that requires in § 4-29-307(a) that “All officers, directors, and shareholders of a corporation subject to this subchapter shall at all times be person licensed pursuant to the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq., and (b) No person who is not so licensed shall have any part in the ownership, management, or control of the corporation . . . .” Attached to Plaintiffs’ Complaint is a Declaration signed by Lori Williams, A.P.R.N. as “Clinical Director” of Plaintiff LRFP, a prima facie violation of A.C.A. § 4-29-307, and, therefore, Plaintiff LRFP is not a proper party to this action rendering this Court without jurisdiction to hear its complaint.

15. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 15 in that as a Foreign Nonprofit Corporation that provides “abortion care,” formed under the provisions of Title 4, Section 33, The Arkansas Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1993, but which is subject to the provisions of A.C.A. § 4-29-305 of the Arkansas Medical Corporation Act as an association

formed “to own, operate, and maintain an establishment for the study, diagnosis, and treatment of human ailments and injuries, whether physical or mental, and to promote medical, surgical, and scientific research and knowledge.” As such, it is also subject to the requirements of § 4-29-307(a) that “All officers, directors, and shareholders of a corporation subject to this subchapter shall at all times be person licensed pursuant to the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq., and (b) No person who is not so licensed shall have any part in the ownership, management, or control of the corporation . . . .” Attached to Plaintiffs’ Complaint is a Declaration signed by Brandon Hill, Ph.D as “President and CEO” of Plaintiff Planned Parenthood, a prima facie violation of A.C.A. § 4-29-307, and, therefore, Plaintiff Planned Parenthood is not a proper party to this action rendering this Court without jurisdiction to hear its complaint.

16. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 16.
17. Intervenor admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 17.
18. Intervenor admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 18.
19. Intervenor admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 19.
20. Intervenor admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 20.
21. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 21.
22. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 22.
23. Intervenor admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 23.
24. Intervenor admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 24.
25. Intervenor admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 25.
26. Intervenor deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 26.

27. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 27.

28. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 28.

29. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 29.

30. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 30.

31. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 31.

32. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 32.

33. Intervenor admits the allegations contained in Paragraph 33.

34. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 34.

35. Intervenor admits the allegations contained in Paragraph 35.

36. Intervenor admits the allegations contained in Paragraph 36.

37. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 37.

38. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 38.

39. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 39.

40. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 40.

41. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 41.

42. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 42.

43. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 43.

44. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 44.

45. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 45.

46. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 46.

47. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 47.

48. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 48.

49. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 49.

50. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 50.

51. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 51.

52. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 52.

53. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 53.

54. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 54.

55. Intervenor denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 55.

56. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 56.

57. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 57.

58. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 58.

59. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 59.

60. Intervenor is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 60.

61. Intervenor's are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 61.

62. Intervenor's are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 62.

63. Intervenor's are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 63.

64. Intervenor's deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 64.

65. Intervenor's deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 65.

66. Intervenor's deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 66.

67. No answer required.

68. Intervenor's deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 68.

In further answering, Intervenor's state the following affirmative defenses:

69. Plaintiffs are without standing since they have no 14th Amendment right to perform abortion services.

70. Plaintiffs are without standing to represent the 14th Amendment rights of their patients since that right includes the right not to terminate their pregnancies and Plaintiffs are solely abortion advocates.

71. Plaintiffs' claims are not ripe.

72. The court lacks subject matter jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, having fully answered, Intervenor's pray for an Order of this Court denying the relief sought by Plaintiffs, dismissing their Complaint with prejudice, and for such other and further relief the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

STORY LAW FIRM, PLLC

By Travis W. Story

Travis W. Story, AR Bar No. 2008274

By Gregory F. Payne

Gregory F. Payne, AR Bar No. 2017008

3608 N. Steele Blvd., Suite 105

Fayetteville AR 72703

(479) 443-3700

[travis@storylawfirm.com](mailto:travis@storylawfirm.com)

[greg@storylawfirm.com](mailto:greg@storylawfirm.com)

THE JUSTICE FOUNDATION

By Allan E. Parker

Allan E. Parker, TX Bar No. 15505500

Pro Hac Vice (Pending)

By Clayton Trotter

R. Clayton Trotter, TX Bar No. 20240500

Pro Hac Vice (Pending)

8023 Vantage Drive, Suite 1275

San Antonio, TX 78230

(210) 614-7157

[aparker@txjf.org](mailto:aparker@txjf.org)

[claytontrotter@gmail.com](mailto:claytontrotter@gmail.com)

Mary J. Browning

Mary J. Browning, MO Bar No. 34633

Pro Hac Vice (Pending)

214 Cherry Street

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone: 573-893-4523

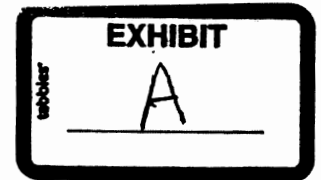
Facsimile: 573-893-4591

[mary@maryjbrowninglaw.com](mailto:mary@maryjbrowninglaw.com)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Brief in Support of Motion to Intervene has been served this 25 day of June, 2021 on counsel for all parties through the Court's CM/ECF filing system.

Gregory F. Payne  
Gregory F. Payne



**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN  
DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION**

**LITTLE ROCK FAMILY PLANNING  
SERVICES, *et al*, Plaintiffs,**

**v.**

**Civil Action  
Case Number 4:21-cv-453-KGB**

**LARRY JEGLEY, in his official capacity  
as Prosecuting Attorney of Pulaski County; *et al***

**DECLARATION**

The State of Arkansas

County of Boone

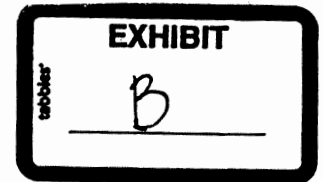
My name is Bert Pohl. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

1. My name is Bert Pohl. I am a resident of Arkansas. My wife and I adopted three frozen embryo children who are currently our living children age 8, 6 and 4 years old.
2. At the time we adopted them, they had been cryogenically frozen within the first week or so of their life which began at fertilization. They were viable outside their mother's womb. We adopted another couple's children. These children are alive today and deserve legal protection. The world's first test tube baby was in 1978. This is new scientific evidence which supports the Arkansas legislative finding that life begins at conception.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 24 day of June, 2021.

Bert B. Pohl  
Bert Pohl



**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN  
DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION**

LITTLE ROCK FAMILY PLANNING  
SERVICES, *et al*, Plaintiffs,

v.

Civil Action  
Case Number 4:21-cv-453-KGB

LARRY JEGLEY, in his official capacity  
as Prosecuting Attorney of Pulaski County; *et al*

**DECLARATION**

The State of Arkansas

County of Conway

My name is Melinda Chisum. I am over the age of eighteen years, and I am of sound mind and competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and I declare under penalty of perjury the following:

I believe that women and children in Arkansas would be better off if abortion were outlawed except to save the life of the mother. Women will be damaged for a lifetime and children killed if the Arkansas Protection of Unborn Children Act does not go into effect.

In 1980 my family moved to rural Morrilton, Arkansas from Pine Bluff, Arkansas. We were very poor. Many times, we didn't even have food to eat, heat or running water in our home. For my entire Jr High and High School years, I washed my clothes in a bucket from water that I carried from next door and hung them out to dry.

Not long after we moved to Morrilton, I met a guy that was five years older than me. I was 14 when I met him and started dating him when I was 15. So, he would have been 20 at that point.

In 1981, when I was 16, I found myself pregnant. I went to the health department in Conway County. I took a pregnancy test and the nurse came back and just handed me a number for the abortion clinic in Little Rock. She really didn't talk to

me, just told me, "You know it is just a blob of tissue at this point." "Here is the for the abortion clinic." I walked out of there really in denial that day trying to act like maybe it would just go away. I thought this can't be happening to me. I went to my family physician for a second opinion and his nurse came back into the room and handed me the number to the abortion clinic. I don't remember the name of the abortion clinic. I was so scared and numb.

My boyfriend made arrangements for all that to happen. I didn't. He took me and he paid for it. He sent me in with the money. I think it was a crime for an older man to be having sex with a 15-year-old in Arkansas. Nobody in the health department nor the abortionist asked me the age of the boy, a man really. They weren't interested in seeing if a crime had occurred. It was legal and I thought it must be OK.

At the abortion facility, I walked in and that was the coldest place I have ever been in. They really didn't talk to me. They took my money and told me to have a seat. They did not show me pictures of fetal development. They did not tell me anything about the procedure. They just took my money. I cannot honestly remember if they had me sign any forms.

The experience reminded me of moving cattle, as if this 16 year old kid was not important. They had me go into a room and undress and put my feet in stirrups and the doctor came in. He didn't say one word to me. There was someone else helping in the room. When the machine turned on and he started performing the abortion, it was the most pain I had ever felt in my life. I didn't know that in order to get pain medication, we would have had to pay for it ahead of time. I cried out in pain and the person that was there grabbed my hand and said, "It'll be over in a minute." It wasn't over in a minute. In fact, pain of the choice will be with me as long as I live on this earth.

When the procedure was over, they took me into a room where some other women were and gave me orange juice and just had me sit back for a few minutes and set me on my way.

I remember lying in bed that night and it hit me that I had killed my child. I cried myself to sleep that night and many more. I don't even know how long it was. I couldn't tell my mom. I couldn't tell anybody. I was too ashamed and too scared, so I suffered alone. It was very traumatic. I have relived the sound of that machine ripping and sucking my baby out of my body over and over. I still can't stand to hear a vacuum running.

In my life, I believe abortion was a direct cause of a lot of depression, anxiety, anger outbursts, acts of rage and suicidal thoughts. It affected me in every area of my life. Those adverse consequences were not because I was raised poor. It was because of the abortion. Being poor is not a crime. A woman choosing to kill her own child is a crime against her own conscience. It hit me that night that I killed my own child and it all fell back on me because I was the one who did it.

As I raised my children, I was dealing with all of this emotional damage from abortion and now trying to raise a family. I had two children. It had devastating repercussions on my children because I was so broken emotionally.

I am the founder and executive director of a Pregnancy Resource Center, not Concepts of Truth. The highest level of education that I have achieved is an Associate Degree in Business. At the center, we provide free pregnancy tests, free ultrasound and we give them all of their options. Today, I try to help women who are in the same situation I was. They may be poor and pregnant, considering abortion. If they choose abortion, we are still here for them to provide healing and help afterward.

There was no one to help me. They just took my money and left me to suffer. I have seen many women who have been hurt by abortion. In my opinion and based on my experience with women who obtained abortions through Planned Parenthood and Little Rock Family Planning, they do not help poor rural Arkansans like me by giving them abortions. In my opinion, they are only exaggerating and expanding problems that come with poverty. I have seen a lot of drug addiction, alcoholism, promiscuity, and more bad choices after abortion. Also, depression, relationship problems, issues with parenting later children, and even actual attempts of suicide. The list just goes on and on.

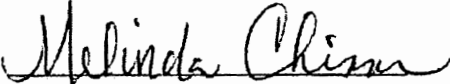
Based on my experience with these women, I believe that this Arkansas law banning abortion except to save the life of the mother or for medical emergencies is a good law because it protects women from emotional and sometimes physical lifelong damage and it stops the killing of children in the womb.

When I was 16, I didn't have the frame of mind or the life experiences under my belt to make a decision like that and nobody tried to explain to me what it was. No one told me what was going to happen or the trauma afterward.

I've just seen too many people who they and their families have been so badly affected by abortion later on. I feel with all my heart abortion is a crime against humanity. It's the taking of an innocent life.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 24th day of June, 2021.

  
Melinda Chisum