

## **DECLARATION OF ROSANN MARIAPPURAM**

ROSANN MARIAPPURAM hereby declares under penalty of perjury the following statements are true and correct:

1. I am the Executive Director of Jane’s Due Process, Inc. (“JDP”), a nonprofit corporation incorporated in Texas and based in Austin, that helps young people navigate parental consent laws and confidentially access abortion and contraception care in Texas. This includes providing funds to Texas abortion providers on behalf of abortion patients in the state to subsidize the cost of their care.

2. Our mission is to help ensure that young people in Texas have full reproductive freedom and autonomy over their healthcare decisions.

3. As Executive Director, my primary responsibilities are overseeing the daily operations and programmatic work of the organization; managing the organization’s finances; managing staff; and serving as a liaison to our Board of Directors.

4. I bring to this position experience as an attorney and advocate for abortion, miscarriage and contraceptive care access. I previously served on the Boards of Directors for the Lilith Fund for Reproductive Equity and NARAL Pro-Choice Texas.

### **JDP’s Services**

5. JDP serves young people throughout Texas. Under state law, an abortion provider must obtain the written consent of a parent or guardian before providing abortion care to a minor. Without parental consent, a minor’s only recourse is to petition a court for a bypass of the requirement (“judicial bypass”). JDP operates a hotline through which young people can request assistance with the judicial bypass process. Specifically, we connect young people to a network of volunteer attorneys who we have recruited and trained to provide free legal representation to

minors in judicial bypass proceedings. JDP completes about thirty hotline intakes for judicial bypass assistance each month. Roughly half of these clients are able to complete the judicial bypass process.

6. In addition to facilitating abortion access for young people who are unable to obtain parental consent, JDP provides funds to abortion providers in Texas on behalf of young patients in the state to subsidize the cost of their care. Occasionally, we also refer young people to abortion providers in Texas, secure the abortion appointments for them, and train abortion providers on how to navigate Texas laws and regulations governing minors' abortion access.

7. JDP also provides case management services, which includes providing emotional support and making referrals to housing, education, childcare, and other social services. We also educate young people in Texas about contraceptive and abortion access, including the judicial bypass process, through educational events and social media.

8. JDP provides these services to young people seeking abortion care in Texas to express and effectuate its deeply held belief in young people's equal rights to bodily autonomy and dignity.

### **JDP's Clients**

9. Almost all our clients obtain an ultrasound dating their pregnancy before their bypass hearing because the legal requirements to be granted a judicial bypass require them to be well informed about their decision. Thus, judges expect young people to have obtained counseling about the benefits, risks, and alternatives of an abortion before the judicial bypass hearing. In my experience, our clients often underestimate how far along they are in a pregnancy, either because they have irregular menstrual cycles—something common in teens—or are not closely tracking

their periods. Our clients often tell us that they are approximately six weeks into their pregnancy when in fact they are often ten weeks pregnant or even further along.

10. Most young people involve a parent or guardian in their abortion decision if it is safe for them to do so. JDP serves those who cannot. Our clients have parents or guardians who are deceased, incarcerated, or abusive; who are inclined to kick them out upon learning of their pregnancy or plans for an abortion; or who would try to coerce them to carry to term against the young person's will, for example.

11. Many of our clients experience multiple, intersecting forms of systemic oppression. The vast majority are people of color: 50% are Latinx or Hispanic and 24% are Black. Additionally, many live under the poverty line. Thus, they are unable to finance an unforeseen medical expense or the other costs of obtaining abortion care, including transportation, lodging, and childcare. Around ten percent of our clients are already parents.

12. Our clients also face unique barriers to abortion access as young people. The process of seeking a judicial bypass delays their abortion care by approximately ten days, which raises the costs of the abortion. In addition, it can be traumatizing and overwhelming for young people to navigate the court system and be forced to ask a judge for permission to have an abortion.

13. Further, it is extremely difficult for young people to explain an extended absence from school or home caused by the judicial bypass hearing and abortion appointments, a challenge exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Such absences threaten the confidentiality surrounding their pregnancy and abortion care. Confidentiality is especially important for our clients because they live in unsupportive and sometimes abusive environments.

14. Another challenge JDP's clients face is finding reliable transportation for the many appointments they need to get an abortion in Texas. Our clients need transportation to get to the

abortion clinic to obtain an ultrasound and options counselling before their judicial bypass hearing, transportation to court for their judicial bypass hearing, and, if the judicial bypass is granted, transportation to the abortion clinic, once again, for their abortion care. If their transportation falls through for even one of these appointments, they may be required to reschedule subsequent appointments. This can cause significant delay in the young person's ability to obtain abortion care.

15. JDP's clients must also navigate Texas' restrictive abortion laws. Texas' six-week abortion ban went into effect on September 1, 2021, and has been devastating for our clients' ability to access care. In addition, our clients struggle with Texas' other restrictions including Texas' 24-hour waiting period that leads to two clinic visits, and a requirement that patients receive an ultrasound from the same provider that will perform their abortion. The latter requirement can make scheduling very challenging since the client's abortion care becomes dependent on one specific provider's availability.

16. Traveling out of state is even more difficult – if not impossible – for our clients because they lack control of their own schedule and are unable to be absent from school or home for an extended period without compromising their confidentiality or safety. In addition, some of our clients are undocumented, which can render out of state travel impossible.

17. Even if our clients are able to arrange out of state travel, they face logistical barriers unique to young people. For instance, in most places, people under the age of 18 cannot check into hotel rooms without an adult or rent a car. Although some of our clients are able to travel with a trusted adult, others find that the stigma against abortion and the additional stigma associated with traveling out of state for abortion care make it difficult to find the support they need to travel for their care.

### **Impact of Abortion Bans on JDP's Clients**

18. I have personally experienced the devastating impact of abortion bans on JDP's clients because of Texas' ban on the provision of abortion after six weeks. Since Texas' six-week abortion ban went into effect, our clients have largely been unable to obtain abortions in Texas or at all. Our judicial bypass phone hotline has had a drastic drop in calls. Our concern is that young people have given up on seeking abortion care in Texas because of SB 8. We also have worked with youth who obtained a judicial bypass before SB 8 took effect, but then could not obtain abortion care in Texas after September 1 because they were past the six-week gestational limit.

19. Nor is this the first time that JDP's clients have suffered under a Texas abortion ban. Texas sharply curtailed abortion access at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Patients throughout Texas were delayed in accessing abortion and had to travel much longer distances to reach a provider legally authorized to perform abortions. Consequently, only a fifth of the young people who sought our help during that time were able to obtain abortion care. Many young people we worked with reported that leaving the state was simply not an option for them.

20. Abortion bans harm all people seeking abortions, but they are especially devastating to individuals who live at the intersections of systemic oppression because of age, race, and economic status. The youth we serve are caught in those traps and have few, if any, options when facing an unintended pregnancy. Young people deserve to live free from reproductive oppression, and abortion bans rob them of that autonomy.

Dated: September 20, 2021

DocuSigned by:  
*Rosann Mariappuram*  
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**ROSANN MARIAPPURAM**