



MEDIA RELEASE

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Strong Support for Parental Notification Law

A Family First-commissioned poll has found extensive support (4 out of 5 people) for parental notification when their daughter is pregnant and considering, or is being advised to have, an abortion.

In response to the question "Should the law require parents to always be informed before-hand if their daughter who is under 16 is pregnant and wants to have an abortion?", 79% responded yes, only 12% said no, and 9% either didn't know or refused to answer.

"This is a very strong response, and is a rebuke to the politicians in 2004 who chose to exclude parents from this process when debating the provision in the Care of Children Bill," says Bob McCoskrie, National Director of Family First NZ.

According to the Care of Children Act 2004, access to abortion is not restricted on grounds of age. Section 38 of the Act says that a girl of any age can give consent to an abortion and that consent operates as if it were given by her parents. Therefore, her parents need never know that their daughter is having such a procedure. Family First is aware of young girls being written to directly asking them to make an appointment to have the Gardasil vaccine.

"This all effectively means that while a parent has to sign a letter for their daughter to go on a school trip to the zoo or to play in the netball team, they are totally excluded from any knowledge or granting of permission for that same child to be put on the pill, have a vaccine, or have a surgical abortion," says Mr McCoskrie.

Family First is asking for the law to be amended to allow for parental notification in all cases of medical advice, prescriptions and procedures unless it can be proved to a family court that it would place the child at extreme risk.

"Parental notification laws in Texas, Michigan, Minnesota, and other US states have seen a drop in both the pregnancy rate and the teen abortion rate – a win-win situation for all concerned. This is especially relevant when almost 80 teenagers a week have an abortion in NZ," says Mr McCoskrie.

The Curia Market Research poll surveyed 1,000 people. The poll was conducted between 24 and 28 March 2010 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.2%.

ENDS

For More Information and Media Interviews, contact Family First:

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