ACCESS = CHOICE

How to talk to your client about Reproductive Justice

WHAT IS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE?

Reproductive Justice is "the human right to control our sexuality, our gender, our work, and our reproduction."

Reproductive Justice demands the right to...

- own our bodies and control our future;
- to not have children;
- to have children; and
- to parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.

Reproductive Justice can only be achieved when ALL women and girls have economic, social, and political power to make healthy, informed decisions about our bodies, our families, and our communities.



WHY SHOULD I TALK TO MY CLIENTS ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE?

Reproductive Justice is an intersectional issue, and your office is not in a vacuum away from your client's lived experience.

Your client may have experienced generational trauma, systemic racism, systemic oppression related to their gender or sexuality, systemic oppression related to a disability, systemic violence, and economic oppression. Even if it is not directly apparent, these factors affect your client and how you provide them reproductive care. Talking to your client about reproductive justice is just one way that you can provide care that is inclusive and holistic.

IF I TALK TO MY CLIENT ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, WILL I BE PUNISHED? WILL MY CLIENT BE PUNISHED?

It depends. Various states have legislation that targets abortion providers. This usually takes place through the regulation of abortion providers including, but not limited to: regulation of locations where abortion is provided and/or facility specifications; provider qualifications; and provider reporting requirements. These regulations are often difficult to comply with but if not followed can result in criminal charges being brought against providers/clinics. States that have made abortion completely illegal may have legislation which allows individuals like the client, their partner, the other party to the pregnancy, or the client's family to bring criminal charges against you.

To find the specific regulations in your state use the following QR code or go to the Center for Reproductive Rights and find the "After Roe Fell: Abortion Laws by State" resource.

Contraceptives are legal in all 50 states. Per a 1965 Supreme Court Decision, *Griswold v. Connecticut*, individuals have a right to contraceptives. Therefore, you should not face legal action for talking to your client about contraceptives.

When talking to your client about contraceptives it is important to remember your client's **access** to contraceptives. Think about...

- where your client lives,
- the culture around contraceptives in their community,
- and what actions/attitudes they may face when receiving contraceptives.

Additionally, it is important to consider your client's health insurance and how that may affect their access to contraceptives.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN TALKING TO YOUR CLIENT:

- How has history affected your client's care?
- Do you know your client's gender? Sexuality? If your client does not want to share their sexuality or gender with you, do you know how to provide care in a way that is inclusive?
- Is your client a person of color?
- Is your client obese/fat?
- Do you know if your client has a disability?
- Is English your client's first language?
- Do you know what your client does for a living? Does your client have health insurance?
- Does your client live close to your office/their pharmacy?

