



**ARTICLE 14:**        **EXPEDITED AND CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**UNDER THE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF ABORTION**  
**ACT**

**14.01 PROCEDURES**

- (a) Any Minor person that is under 18 years of age who is not or has not been married or who has not been emancipated under the Emancipation of Minors Act (750 ILCS 30/1 et. seq.) who seeks to petition the Circuit Court for a waiver of the notice requirements of the Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995 (750 ILCS 70/1 et. seq.) may file a Petition with the Circuit Court Clerk. Any incompetent person, that is, a person who has been adjudged as mentally ill or developmentally disabled and who, because of her mental illness or developmental disability is not fully able to manage her person and for whom a guardian of the person has been appointed under Section 11a-3(a)(1) of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/11a-3) who seeks to petition the Circuit Court for a waiver of the notice requirements of the Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995 (750 ILCS 70/1 et. seq.) may file a Petition with the Circuit Court Clerk. Any person filing such Petition may file the Petition using her full name, her initials, or a pseudonym.
- (b) The Circuit Court Clerk shall forthwith file such Petition without fee. The Petition and all subsequent filings shall be impounded and shall remain confidential and shall not be available to the public.
- (c) Upon filing of the Petition, the Circuit Court Clerk shall immediately place the Petition on the docket of the judge presently assigned to hear the Civil Court, or such other judge as shall be designated by the Presiding Judge to hear such Petition in the event the civil court is not in session. The Petitioner shall appear before the assigned court for all further proceedings on the Petition.
- (d) Upon the initial appearance of the Petitioner, the Court shall appoint a Guardian ad Litem for the minor or incompetent person. In the event that the Petition was filed by legal counsel, the judge shall consider the appointment of that counsel as the Guardian ad Litem. The appointed Guardian ad Litem shall be at no cost to the Petitioner, minor, or incompetent person. The Guardian ad Litem shall at all times maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings and shall otherwise maintain the anonymity of the minor or incompetent person. The Court shall advise the minor or incompetent person that she is entitled to court-appointed counsel, and shall appoint such counsel upon request of the minor or incompetent person. Nothing herein shall prohibit private counsel from charging reasonable fees for services.

- (e) The Court shall set this matter for further proceedings or hearings as soon as practicable, but in no event, more than 48 hours (excluding weekends and court holidays) after the filing of the Petition. Proceedings on any such Petition shall take precedence over any other matters pending before the Court to the extent necessary to ensure that the Court promptly renders a decision on the Petition.
- (f) The Court shall rule and issue written findings of fact and conclusions of law within 48 hours (excluding weekends and court holidays) of the time that the Petition was filed. This time may be extended only upon the request of the minor or incompetent person and for good cause shown. If the Court fails to rule on a Petition within the 48 hours (excluding weekends and court holidays) or any extension that may have been granted to the Petitioner, the Petition will be deemed to have been granted and notice to an adult family member of the Petitioner will be deemed waived. The Circuit Court Clerk shall give notice of any ruling of the Court to the Petitioner. Such notice may be informal but must remain confidential.
- (g) If a ruling on the Petition is not issued immediately upon the conclusion of the hearing, it shall be the responsibility of the Petitioner to contact the Circuit Court Clerk for notification of the decision. Such notification may be informal, but shall always be made confidentially.
- (h) If a Petition under the Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995 is denied, the Petitioner will be allowed an expedited and confidential appeal as provided by Supreme Court rule 303A(b) through (h). Any order granting a waiver of notice is not subject to an appeal. If such an appeal is requested by Petitioner, the court shall prepare the record of proceedings, including a full record of all proceedings at no cost to the Petitioner.
- (i) The full record, including all written filings, orders and transcripts shall remain confidential and shall not be made available to the public at any time.