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2	1747 E. Morten Avenue, Suite 205 Phoenix, Arizona 85020 Telephone:
3	Facsimile:
4	
5	Gregg R. Woodnick, # Kaci Y. Bowman, #
6	Attorneys for Defendant
7	IN THE SUPERIOR
8	IN AND EO

# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

LAURA OWENS,

Plaintiff,

Vs.

GREGORY GILLESPIE,

Defendant.

Case No.: CV2021-052893

NOTICE PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 12-1841

(Assigned to the Hon. Alison Bachus)

Defendant, GREGORY GILLESPIE, by and through undersigned counsel, hereby notifies the Arizona Attorney General, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate that he intends to raise a claim of unconstitutionality relating to the application of A.R.S. § 36-2153(G). A copy of the pleadings, including the underlying Complaint, as well as the Motion to Dismiss/Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, are attached as **Exhibits A and B** respectively.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-1841(B), Defendant provides the following:

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#### 1. Attorney for the party alleging unconstitutional application of the statute in this case:

Gregg R. Woodnick, Esq. Kaci Y. Bowman, Esq. 1747 E. Morten Ave, Suite 205 Phoenix, AZ 85020

#### 2. Case Information

Laura Owens vs. Gregory Gillespie CV2021-052893 Superior Court of the State of Arizona In and For Maricopa County

#### 3. Statement of basis for claim/description of proceedings:

The parties had a brief relationship in June of 2021. In July, Plaintiff allegedly discovered she was pregnant and informed Defendant of the same. In late July Plaintiff allegedly obtained abortion pills and took them while on the phone with, but outside the presence of, Defendant. After allegedly administering the second pill incorrectly, Plaintiff claims that she unilaterally obtained and took the pills again, but the medicinal abortion was unsuccessful. Days later, Plaintiff states she received additional abortion pills, taking the second pill in the presence of Defendant on August 5, 2021. During these events, Plaintiff and Defendant were communicating through text and phone call and Defendant was supportive of Plaintiff's actions. On August 11, 2021, Plaintiff filed her Complaint, which alleges Defendant's communication with her during this time qualified as "to intimidate or coerce in any way a person to obtain an abortion" under A.R.S. § 36-2153(G).

While Defendant denies the allegations levied by Plaintiff, the Motion to Dismiss challenges the constitutionality of A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) because, in addition to being void for

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vagueness and overbroad, it acts as an impermissible content-based prior restraint on speech in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Furthermore, the statute violates the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because it is impossible to determine what acts a person must not do to avoid liability.

#### 4. Next hearing:

As of filing, there is no upcoming hearing.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this 15th day of February, 2022.

**WOODNICK LAW, PLLC** 

Gregg R. Woodnick Kaci Y. Bowman

Attorneys for Defendant

1	ORIGINAL of the foregoing e-filed		
2	This 15th day of February 2022, with the Clerk of the Superior Court.		
3	the Clerk of the Superior Court.		
4	<b>COPY</b> of the foregoing document e-mailed the same day to:		
5			
6	Honorable Alison Bachus Maricopa County Superior Court		
7	Laura Owens		
8	Laura Owens		
9			
10	Plaintiff Pro Per		
11	COPIES OF THE foregoing document		
12	served upon:		
13	Karen Fann		
14	President of the Senate of Arizona		
15	1700 W. Washington St Room 205		
16	Phoenix, AZ 85007		
17	A ' A ' C 1M 1 D '1		
	Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich Office of the Attorney General		
18	2005 N. Central Avenue		
19	Phoenix, AZ 85004		
20	Rusty Bowers		
21	Speaker of the House		
22	Arizona House of Representatives		
23	1700 W. Washington St Room 203		
24	Phoenix, AZ 85007		
25	By: <u>/s/Sara Seeburg</u>		
26			
27			

Exhibit "A"

Clerk of the Superior Court
\*\*\* Electronically Filed \*\*\*
A. Sutton, Deputy
8/11/2021 11:39:30 AM
Filing ID 13236528

### PLAINTIFF(S) ATTORNEY INFORMATION: Laura Owens Scottsdale, AZ Name/Address/Phone Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County, 201 W Jefferson St., Phoenix, AZ 85003 (Court Name, Address and Phone Number) Laura Owens Case Numbe EV 2021-052893 Scottsdale, AZ **COMPLAINT** Plaintiff(s) Name/Address/Phone CIVIL V. Gregory Gillespie Defendant(s) Name/Address/Phone Plaintiff(s) alleges: 1. This claim arises from: [X] Tort [ ] Contract [ ] Debt Venue in this precinct is proper because: 2. [X] The defendant(s) reside(s) or does business in this precinct. The debt or obligation that resulted in this claim occurred in this precinct [ ] at the following location:

		<u>.</u>
[]	Other:	(pursuant to A.R.S. §
	12-401).	

- 3. The defendant(s) owes the sum of \$\( \) 45,000. The defendant(s) owe the plaintiff(s) this amount because: (State the facts in support of your claim. You may attach an additional page to your complaint, if necessary.)
  - The Plaintiff became pregnant with the Defendant's child on either June 4) Plaintiff became pregnant on her second date with Defendant on or around June 30 2021 after only 2 dates.
  - 5) Plaintiff informed Defendant of the pregnancy and he denied it, after which he forced Plaintiff to have multiple pregnancy tests and a doctor's appointment.
  - 6) Once Defendant finally learned the pregnancy was real, Defendant employed false promises, and verbal and emotional abuse to coerce Plaintiff into getting an abortion.
  - 7) Upon Plaintiff's first attempt to terminate the pregnancy, Defendant blocked Plaintiff from all communication.
  - 8) When Plaintiff informed Defendant of her failed attempt at termination, Defendant again employed false promises, and verbal and emotional abuse to coerce Plaintiff again.
  - 9) During this entire time, Plaintiff clearly expressed her desire to not terminate the pregnancy. (See attachment for more)

Case Number:	
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#### 1) - ARS 13-3601

- 3. The victim or the defendant is pregnant by the other party.
- 6. The relationship between the victim and the defendant is currently or was previously a romantic or sexual relationship.
- L. If a person is convicted of an offense involving domestic violence and the victim was pregnant at the time of the commission of the offense, at the time of sentencing the court shall take into consideration the fact that the victim was pregnant and may increase the sentence.

#### - ARS 36-2153:

- G. A person shall not intimidate or coerce in any way any person to obtain an abortion.
- Intentional tort: Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
  - The person's conduct or actions were extreme or outrageous;
  - The person intended to inflict distress, or the person recklessly disregarded that their conduct would result in the victim's emotional distress; and,
  - The person's conduct resulted in the victim's severe emotional distress

- 4. Plaintiff(s) is also claiming:
  - [X] Attorney's fees
  - [ ] Prejudgment interest

[]	Postjudgment interest
[X]	Court costs
[]	Other (specify):
5. I state ur	nder penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Date: <u>8/10/2</u>	21 <u>Laura Owens</u> Plaintiff

Case Number:

PLAINTIFF(S) ATTORNEY INFORM	MATION:
Laura Owens	
Scottsdale, AZ	
Plaintiff(s) Name/Address/Phone	
Name/Address/Phone	
Superior Court of Arizona in Maricop St., Phoenix, AZ 85003	oa County, 201 W Jefferson
(Court Name, Address and Phone Nun	nber)
Laura Owens	Case Number:
Scottsdale,	
AZ	
Plaintiff(a) Nama/Addragg/Phone	
Plaintiff(s) Name/Address/Phone	
	V.
Gregory Gillespie	
Defendant(s) Nama/Address/Dhane	
Defendant(s) Name/Address/Phone	

The following pages are copies of relevant notes and text messages from July and August of 2021 between the Plaintiff and the Defendent.







otes and records from Ms. a ra Owens visits to One Medical on 1





week. We need to get our lives back and healthy. And then we can get to know our true selves. This is damaging both of us severally with every hour that continues to pass. I know that I liked you very much when this wasn't on our minds and over our heads. I know that it is damaging each of us. I want this to be over with. Do you? Can we take care of it this week and try for this weekend. The timing is perfect. I don't want to go into the week next week with this on our minds any longer. I should be almost healthy, this will be beyond us. Hopefully have a nice weekend going into the week and we can get back to being ourselves.

I promise this to you. I will support you after this, I will grow with you get to know our real selfs and we can begin our relationship in the tight foot.

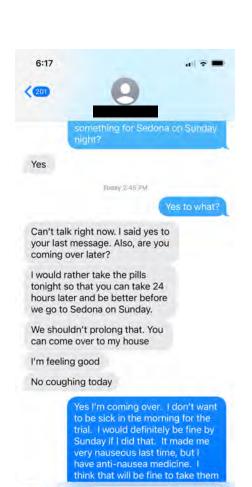
I need the same from you. To see that you support what I'm trying to do here also. Get back to healthy.





Management

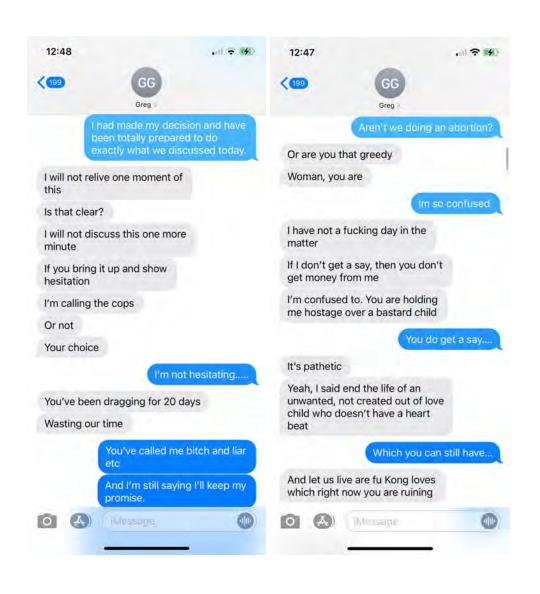


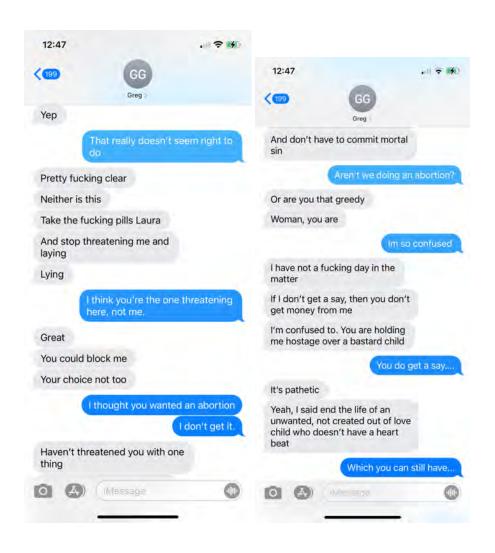


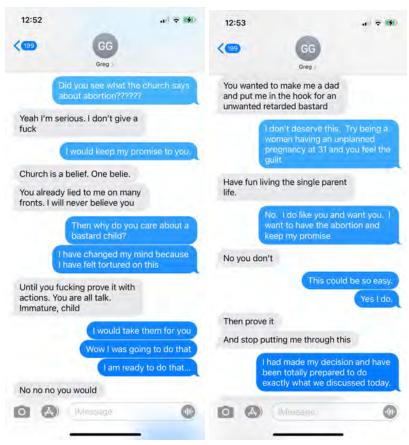
O (A) Message

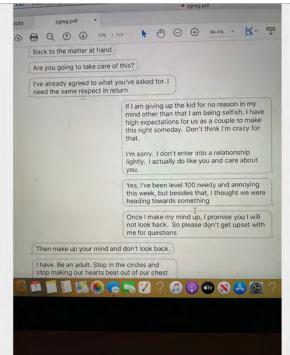
foundation for something more mea Will you take the pills tonight? I don't want to have a baby this way That would mean you can take the others tomorrow. And Friday. And by the weekend, I will be hopefully 100%, this will be past us and we can plan to go to Sedona maybe Sunday? I have PTO also, if you can get off work, we could go Sunday Monday? I need to relax after all this. I know you do And I can't with everything going on. This should have been completed this time last Neither of us had handled it well. I'm sorry I got upset, I'm sorry I blacked you, I'm sorry I am sick and can't be myself at the moment. I promised you We would continue to see one another (assuming you want to?!), grow with each other, use this as a reason to be stronger and build a foundation. We moved way too fast, I said this then and I say it now. We need to get to know one another and not on this stressing Stressor. Neither one of us had been ourself. And there's no chance we will be until this is beyond us. I want to get yo know you, not this version that no normal couple would ever have to face. We haven't handled it well until now and we won't until this is behind us. We are human. We have feelings and this stressed us to the Max. I want to do everything I can to move past, heal get to know one another. Under "normal" circumstances. We wanted to take care of this weeks ago and not another

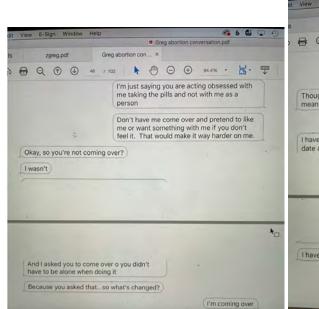
Text messages from Mr. Gillespie expressing his desire to have a relationship after Ms. Owens would have an abortion from the week of August 4, 2021

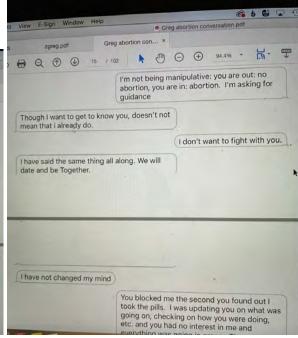


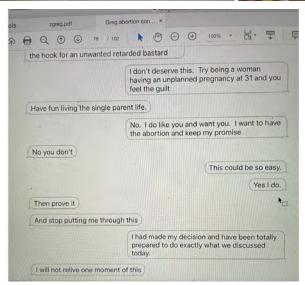


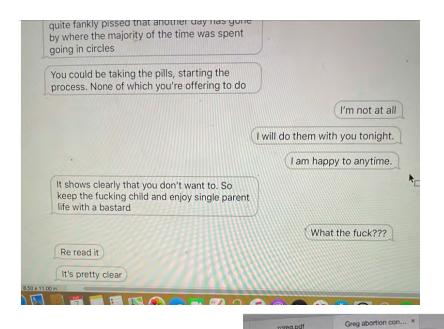


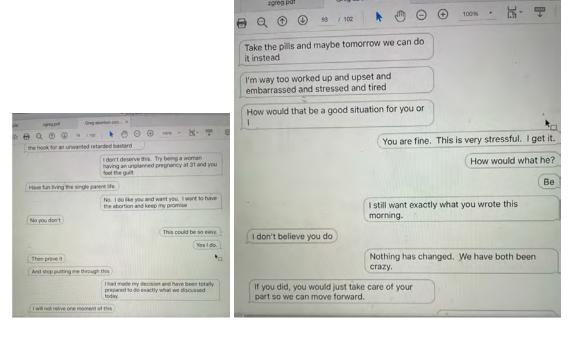


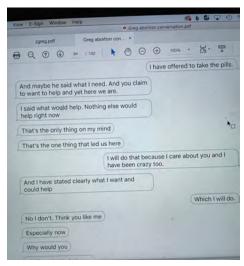


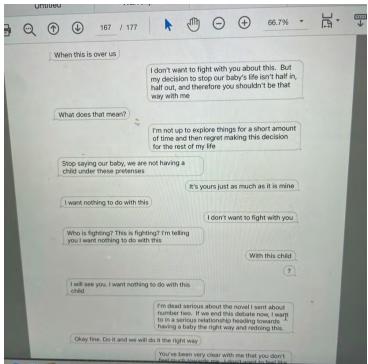


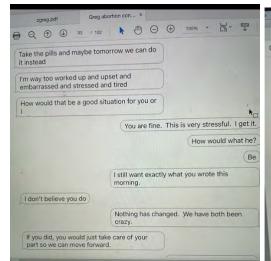


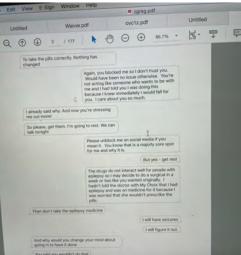


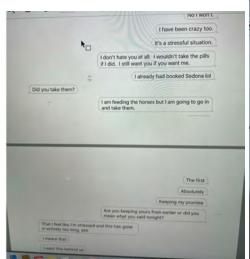


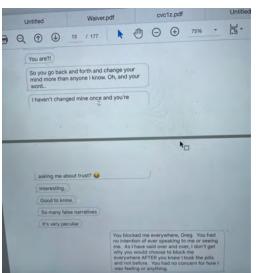


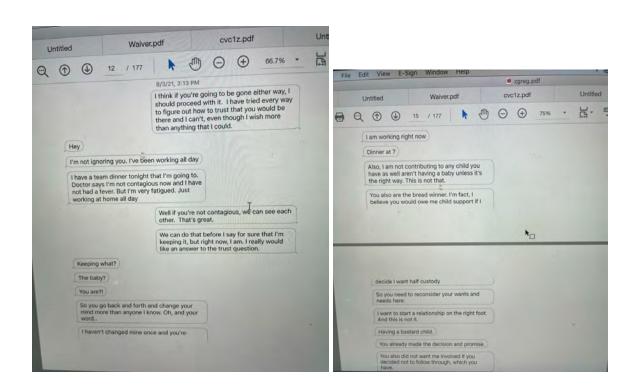


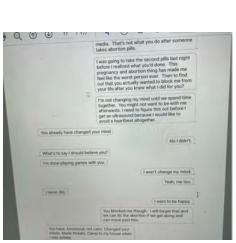


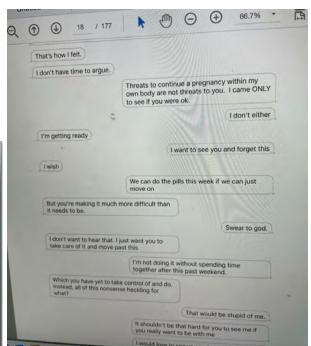


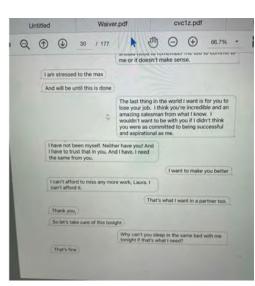


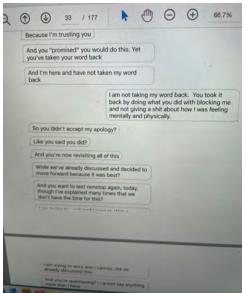


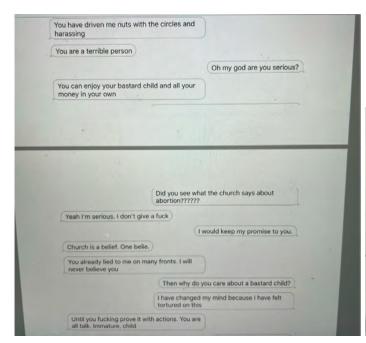


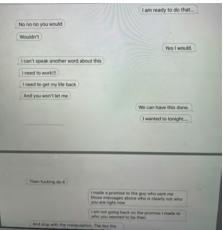


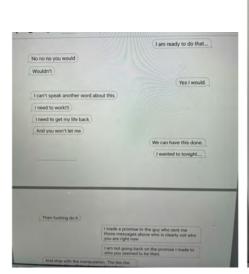


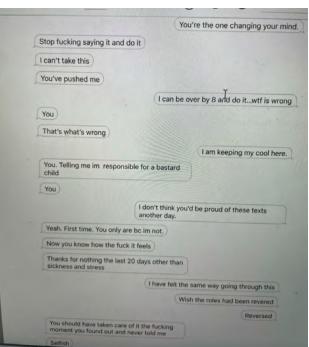


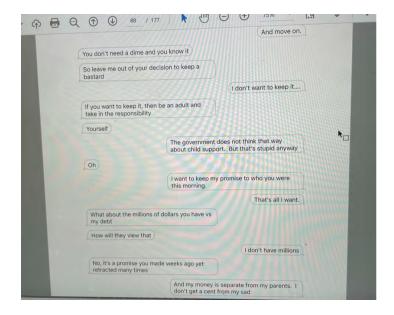




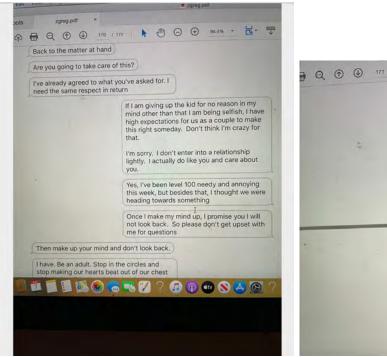


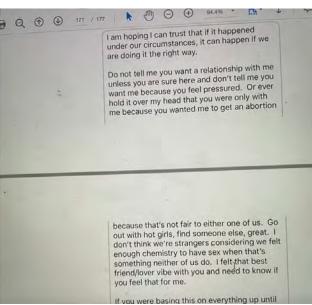


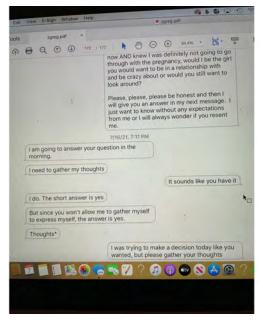


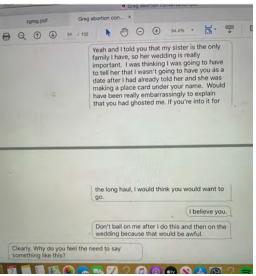


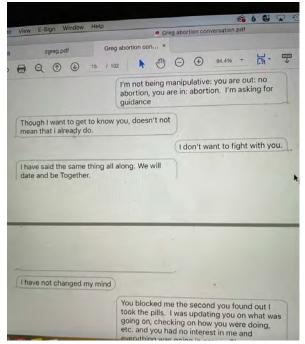
#### Text messages from Mr. Gallespie coercing Ms. Owens into an abortion

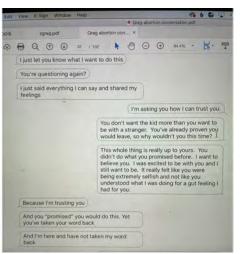


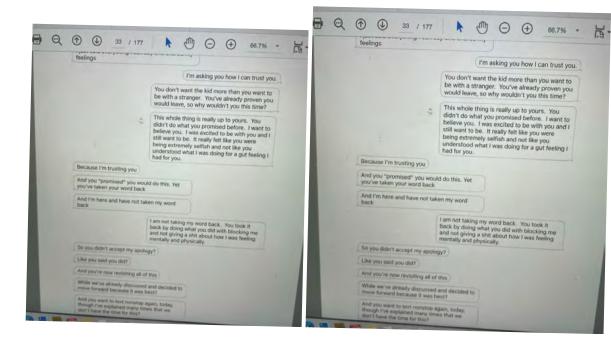


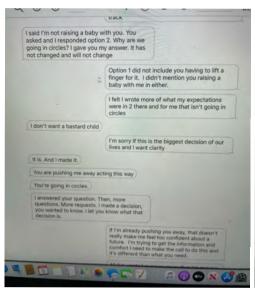


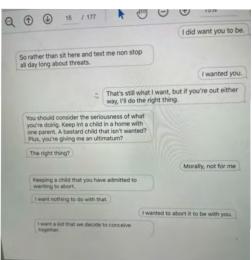


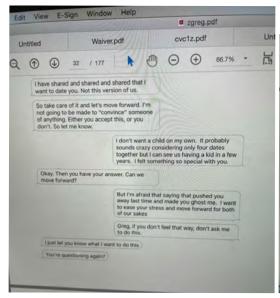


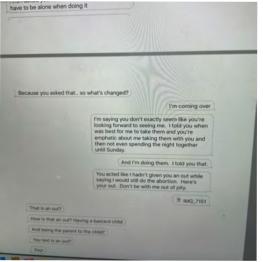


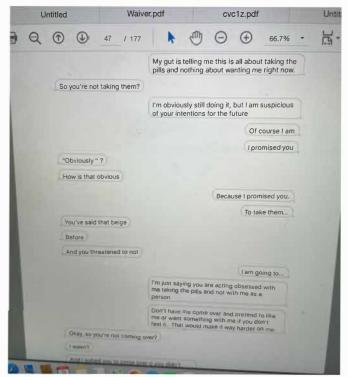


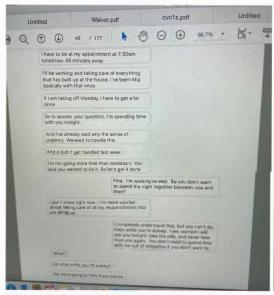


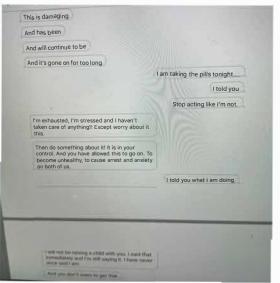












And only ask me to do this if you want me, not just an abortion. I was mad yesterday and impulsive. I wouldn't ask you for child support. So just make sure that I am what you want and you're not just pitying me

And I will do it

1 have

And I vocalize this to you

Text messages from Ms. Owens expressing her expectations for the relationship if she were to have an abortion and his responses

## **PLAINTIFF(S) ATTORNEY INFORMATION: Laura Owens** Scottsdale, AZ Name/Address/Phone Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County, 201 W Jefferson St., Phoenix, AZ 85003 (Court Name, Address and Phone Number) Laura Owens Case Number: Scottsdale, AZ Plaintiff(s) Name/Address/Phone V. **Gregory Gillespie**

**Defendant(s)** Name/Address/Phone

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS AND BREACH (CONT)

- 11. Defendant was steadfast in his viewpoint that the pregnancy be terminated immediately because he did not want a "bastard child" and said he would have no involvement in its life, nor pay child support.
- 12. Plaintiff did not wish to give up the pregnancy from a spiritual or moral standpoint and planned to proceed with it, even if she was doing it alone.
- 13. Defendant's false promises included comments regarding a great opportunity for them to work towards eventual marriage and to have a child 'the right way' in the future
- 14. Plaintiff indicated to Defendant that she did not expect him to be involved in the rearing and support of this child and did not need to speak with her again if that is what he desired.
- 15. Defendant refused and instead indicated that he wanted a relationship but he refused to see her or contribute to the relationship until Plaintiff had terminated the pregnancy.
- 16.Despite Arizona's five-week pregnancy limit in order to terminate a pregnancy, Defendant found this unacceptable and coerced Plaintiff into obtaining abortion pills using an unorthodox method.
- 17. Although Plaintiff was reluctant to administer the pills because she felt that she was financially, emotionally, and physically able to create an environment where their child would thrive, Defendant was insistent that she proceed immediately so that they could move on with their future.
- 18.On July 28, 2021, at around 10pm Plaintiff administered the first pill while over the phone with Defendant.
- 19. During that conversation Plaintiff reiterated that she did not expect him to participate in the child rearing and support if she were to make the decision to continue her pregnancy.
- 20.Defendant pleaded with her and said she needed to believe him.
- 21. On July 29, 2021, Plaintiff administered the second pill incorrectly.
- 22. After receiving instructions on how to properly administer the second pill, Plaintiff attempted to contact Defendant to administer the second pill over the phone with him, but he was unreachable.
- 23.Once Plaintiff finally reached Defendant on July 31, 2021, Defendant scolded her for waiting to administer the second pill.

- 24.On July 31, 2021, Plaintiff correctly administered the second pill after Defendant's persistent insistence that it must be done; however, the termination did not pass as it should.
- 25.On August 1, 2021, Plaintiff discovered from her doctor that it was a "failed abortion" and that the development of the fetus may not have stopped, but it was uncertain.
- 26. After attempting to contact Defendant during this time, Plaintiff discovered that Defendant had blocked her from all forms of traditional communication.
- 27. Upon discovery of the "failed abortion", Defendant panicked and attempted to persuade Plaintiff not only that he had not blocked her from communication, but also that he wanted to stay with her if she followed through with the termination.
- 28. At that point, Plaintiff indicated that she would let God decide what happened to the fetus at that point regardless of whether she ended up passing it or not.
- 29. Defendant indicated that he "did not want a retarded bastard child" while also promising that he would attend a wedding with Plaintiff, wanted to start a family with her, and wanted to be introduced to Plaintiffs father (who is suffering from many medical issues) once the pregnancy was terminated.
- 30.Defendant also indicated that Plaintiff needed to stop playing games with him and that if she wanted a relationship with him, she needed to follow through with the termination.
- 31.Plaintiff explained that the decision to end a human life was much more serious than any decision she had made before and that she would have to live with the consequences of this for the rest of her life.
- 32.On August 4, 2021 in text messages sent between Plaintiff and Defendant, Defendant indicated that he wanted to continue the relationship if "we take care of it this week and try for this weekend", and that he promises to "support [her] after this" and they can "begin their relationship" in exchange for terminating the pregnancy. See exhibit [number here].
- 33.Relying on these representations, Plaintiff was convinced that Defendant's intentions were pure.
- 34. When the time came for Plaintiff to administer her termination pills, she hesitated and contacted Defendant.
- 35.Defendant used verbally and emotionally abusive manipulations, even threatening to call the police if she hesitated in terminating the pregnancy. See exhibit [number here].

- 36.On August 5, 2021, Plaintiff went to Defendant's house where she anticipated he would be there to support her in her emotionally distraught condition due to taking the termination pill on the previous day.
- 37.Instead, Defendant's behavior was extreme cold and bizarre, as he was telling Plaintiff that she was toying with him and that he could not relax in their relationship until the abortion was done.
- 38.He further questioned and criticized every action Plaintiff made that night, including making Plaintiff show Defendant that she was properly administering the second pill by showing the inside of her cheek to Defendant because he did not believe that she was taking the pill; Defendant's actions were clear that he cared more about making sure the abortion was done than he did about wanting a future with Plaintiff.
- 39.Defendant acted disgusted and disrespectful and refused to provide any verbal, emotional, or physical comfort to Plaintiff during this traumatic process until he was convinced that the pregnancy was terminated, causing Plaintiff to leave his house at 1:00AM.
- 40.By that point Plaintiff had already administered the second pill in Defendant's presence.
- 41.On August 6, 2021 Plaintiff again discovered that Defendant and blocked her from all forms of traditional communication and social media.
- 42. Plaintiff is physically, emotionally and psychologically distraught to have go thought the tedious and traumatic process of terminating a pregnancy for the sake of a relationship with Defendant, whom had no intention of having one but used the false promises and abuse to manipulate Plaintiff into believing he did.
- 43. Defendant continued to call Plaintiff names, including "psychopath", and criticized her participation in Apple Podcast's "Nobody Told Me!" as a "joke".
- 44. Defendant also threatened to go public with Plaintiff's abortion knowing that Plaintiff would lose respect as an advocate for domestic violation and victim's rights and insisted on recording their phone conversations so that he could repeatedly say that Plaintiff "murdered [his] child".
- 45. Simply put, Defendant did not want a child to be burn under any circumstances and was willing to say or do whatever it took to get Plaintiff to terminate the pregnancy without consideration for the fetus or Plaintiff.
- 46. Plaintiff is suffering from a complete state of shock, depression, and guilt over a needless decision that she made for the sake of Defendant's empty promises.

Exhibit "B"

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# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

#### IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

Case No.: CV2021-052893

# MOTION TO DISMISS/MOTION OF PLAINTIFF'S ABORTION COERCION CLAIM

(Assigned to the Hon. Alison Bachus)

Defendant, GREGORY GILLESPIE, by and through undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully moves to dismiss the allegation of "abortion coercion" contained in Plaintiff's Complaint pursuant to 12(b)(6) and 12(b)(7), and as a Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings pursuant to 12(c), Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure (A.R.C.P.). This Court denied a prior Motion to Dismiss on December 14, 2021, for a failure by Defendant to consult with Plaintiff pursuant to Rule 12(j) and to allege Plaintiff's Complaint did not contain facts warranting relief under any interpretation. This current Motion differs significantly from the previous, as it is confined to a particular statute cited to by Plaintiff in her Complaint and contains allegations that the court must adjudicate pursuant to A.R.C.P. 12(b)(6), and (7). Attached to this Motion

 is a Good Faith Consultation Certificate as required by Rules 7.1(h) and 12(j). As and for his Motion, Mr. Gillespie states and alleges as follows:

### **ARGUMENT**

Plaintiff alleges three (3) counts for relief in her Complaint: (1) A.R.S. § 13-3601 (which she voluntarily dismissed upon learning that Title 13 does not create civil causes of action); (2) A.R.S. § 36-2153 (abortion conducted without informed consent); and (3) the tort of intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Plaintiff's claim for relief under A.R.S. § 36-2153 fails because the statute does not create a cause of action for any of Defendant's conduct alleged in the Complaint. Moreover, to the extent the statute creates a cause of action, such action may only be brought against a person who conducts an abortion without informed consent (which the statute defines precisely and at great length in a manner unrelated to any of Defendant's alleged conduct). No such person is joined in this action, nor does Plaintiff allege that any person other than herself performed or induced an abortion as defined in the statute.

## I. Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim for which relief can be granted.

### "Abortion coercion" claim

## Statutory language

Plaintiff alleges that Defendant has violated A.R.S. § 36-2153(G). This subsection states, in its first sentence, "A person shall not intimidate or coerce in any way any person to obtain an abortion." This provision does not contain any further explanation of what "intimidate or coerce in any way" means in this context, *nor* does it state that a person who does those things is liable for damages. It does not on its face create a cause of action for

damages against Defendant. The remainder of subsection G goes on to state that a parent cannot coerce a minor to obtain an abortion, then prescribes certain remedies for a minor whose parents deny her financial support due to the minor's refusal to have an abortion performed. Again, nothing in subsection G or the statute defines intimidation or coercion, nor does any part of the statute expressly state a cause of action for intimidation or coercion.

In matters of statutory interpretation, the court must read the entire statute and interpret each term within the context of its accompanying provisions.<sup>1</sup> When a statute expressly lists things of a class, unlisted members or objects of the same class must be excluded absent language to the contrary (e.g., "including but not limited to").<sup>2</sup>

In § 36-2153, there are several such lists. The statute lists information that a physician who is to perform an abortion must provide to the woman receiving the abortion, orally and in person at least 24 hours before the procedure. § 36-2153(A)(1)(a)-(g). The statute lists additional information that must be given, orally and in person at least 24 hours before the procedure, by the physician or a qualified professional to whom the responsibility has been delegated. *Id.* at § (A)(2)(a)-(h). The statute then lists other requirements for receiving and documenting the patient's informed consent, including information about the drug mifepristone and the medical indications supporting an emergency procedure (if applicable). *Id.* at § (B)-(C). Then, the statute instructs the department of health services to establish and maintain a website with an enumerated list of information to be kept and made available. *Id.* at § (D)(1)-(8). Later, the statute identifies people who may file a civil action under the statute and the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> State v. Gaynor-Fonte, 211 Ariz. 516, 518 (Ariz. 2005).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Southwestern Iron and Steel Indus., Inc v. State, 123 Ariz. 78, 79 (1979) (adopting the statutory principle of Expressio unius est exclusio alterius).

available relief for damages resulting from a violation of the statute, again expressly stating that the claim is based on failure to obtain informed consent before performing an abortion. Id. at (K)(1)-(3) and (L)(1)-(3).

The statute does not create a cause of action against a person who did not perform an abortion without informed consent. A.R.S. § 36-2153 does create a cause of action under subsection K, specifically for a woman, the father of the unborn child, or a maternal grandparent to recover against a physician who performed an abortion without informed consent, as defined by subsection A (detailed above). Subsection K provides:

"K. In addition to other remedies available under the common or statutory law of this state, any of the following may file a civil action to obtain appropriate relief for a violation of this section: 1. A woman on whom an abortion has been performed without her informed consent as required by this section."

Two other statutes in Title 36, Chapter 20 impose other requirements relating to informed consent, all of which are acts and conditions required of the provider. *See* A.R.S. §§ 36-2156 and 36-2158. In fact, every statute in the chapter describes requirements for medical providers—not private citizens.

### Statutory interpretation

The plain language of the statute limits the cause of action to the conduct the statute requires of medical providers conducting abortion procedures. The only express claims it creates are for the woman, the father, or a maternal grandparent to sue the provider who performed an abortion without informed consent. Every cognizable claim under the operative sections of the statute require that an abortion was conducted without informed consent, and the duty to obtain and keep record of informed consent rests squarely on the physician. The

statute cannot be reasonably read in any way except that relief <u>must</u> be sought from the physician who performed the abortion. Because the cause of action arises from an abortion conducted without informed consent, and the statute's definition of informed consent refers entirely to acts the provider must undertake, there is simply no cause against a private citizen unless they performed an abortion procedure (an act that is prohibited by A.R.S. § 36-2155).

The remedy, if there is one, cannot come from Defendant because he did not perform or induce an abortion without informed consent. He cannot do so, nor does the Complaint allege that he did. Moreover, he has no duty to engage in any of the acts required by the statute (or any other statute in Title 36, Chapter 20). The Complaint asserts that Plaintiff obtained "abortion pills" (Complaint at 28, ¶ 16), administered the first pill not in Defendant's presence (¶ 18), administered the second pill a day later outside of Defendant's presence (¶ 21), administered the second pill again two days after that outside of Defendant's presence (Complaint at 29, ¶ 24), administered the first pill again four days after that outside of Defendant's presence (Complaint at 30, ¶ 36), and finally administered the second pill for a third time (the only relevant act in Defendant's presence) another day after that (¶ 40). Plaintiff alleges in the Complaint that she undertook at least five affirmative acts inducing an abortion outside of Defendant's presence and another affirmative act in his presence but does not allege that Defendant performed or induced an abortion. None of the conduct alleged against Defendant constitutes performing or inducing an abortion, nor does the Complaint allege Defendant had a duty or failed to comply with the statue's informed consent requirements.

Therefore, even accepting all material facts pled by Plaintiff as true for purposes of adjudicating the pleadings, she "would not be entitled to relief under any interpretation of the

facts susceptible of proof." *Fid. Sec. Life Ins. Co. v. State Dep't of Ins.*, 191 Ariz. 222, 224 (1998). This is because the statute simply does not contemplate the relief she is requesting.

### Intimidation or coercion

Assuming, arguendo, that the statute creates an independent cause of action in the absence of a defendant performing an abortion without informed consent, the only remotely cognizable claim is that a person's intimidation or coercion forced someone to perform or induce an abortion. As discussed in the previous section, Plaintiff undertook all of the affirmative acts that she alleges resulted in the termination of her pregnancy and did so almost entirely outside of Defendant's presence. Her Complaint does not state that Defendant coerced her, but rather that she terminated the pregnancy "for the sake of a relationship with Defendant" (Complaint at 30, ¶¶ 42 and 46). Therefore, taking the facts alleged in the Complaint as true, Plaintiff herself asserts that she chose to terminate the pregnancy based on the belief that she could continue to have a relationship with Defendant. In the light most favorable to her, it could be surmised that Plaintiff means to claim that she relied on promises from Defendant; accordingly, the question is whether promises qualify as intimidation or coercion in this context.

Title 36 does not define intimidation or coercion, but the terms are used in other statutes with specific meanings. A.R.S. § 13-1202, a criminal statute, defines intimidation as intimidating, by words or conduct, to injure someone or cause serious damage to their property, to cause serious public inconvenience such as evacuation of a building, or to injure or damage the property of another person to assist in a criminal street gang, syndicate, or racketeering enterprise. A.R.S. § 13-1307, the criminal sex trafficking statute, defines coercion

as threatening to abuse the law, making a passport or other government identification inaccessible to its owner, extortion, causing or threatening financial harm, or facilitating or controlling a person's access to a controlled substance. The Complaint does not allege that Defendant did any of these things.

Defendant cannot find any legal support for Plaintiff's position that offering to remain in a relationship with someone if they terminate their pregnancy is intimidating or coercive. The acts she alleges—that Defendant promised he would work toward a marriage and eventually have a child with her (Complaint at 28, ¶ 13), attend an event with her (Id. at 29, ¶ 29), wanted to start a family with her (Id.), wanted to meet her father (Id.), "support her after this" and "begin their relationship" (¶ 32)—are not even remotely of the kind of words or conduct that Arizona law elsewhere defines as intimidation or coercion. The only acts in the Complaint that might come close are the alleged threats to "go public with Plaintiff's abortion" to damage her reputation (¶ 44), but that is alleged to have occurred after Plaintiff's actions to abort the pregnancy and is therefore temporally excluded. Again, assuming all the facts alleged in the Complaint are true, there is no conceivable claim for which relief can be granted.

# II. Plaintiff failed to join a necessary party to recover for an abortion without informed consent.

Because Plaintiff's A.R.S. § 36-2153 claim can only be remedied through a cause of action against the physician who performed the abortion without her "informed consent"—or is at least predicated on the requirement that an abortion without informed consent actually happened—Plaintiff has failed to join a necessary party. A.R.S. § 36-2153 imposes an affirmative duty on the physician performing the abortion to obtain the qualifying individual's informed consent. Under Rule 19(a)(1)(A), the physician who performed the abortion on

Plaintiff must be joined because the court cannot accord complete relief—or any relief for that matter—among the existing parties.

Even if Defendant's actions did create an actionable claim for an abortion without informed consent, the Complaint must necessarily be against both the Defendant and whoever "performed or induced" the abortion. The provider who conducted the procedure or, as here, authorized Plaintiff's use of abortion-inducing medication has the duty to receive and document informed consent. If Plaintiff acquired the medications—which she administered six times—without consulting a medical provider, then there is no intervening party who could have received informed consent. Paradoxically, the only person who could have ensured informed consent would then have been Plaintiff herself. Because that would clearly not be a cognizable claim, the Complaint would have to be dismissed outright. In the alternative, if Plaintiff did receive authorization from a physician and now alleges the abortion was performed or induced without her informed consent, then relief can only be afforded if that physician is joined as a party. After all, their intervening breach of duty proximately caused the alleged harm. The physician, if there is one, must be at least partially liable under the statute and share in the attribution of fault or indemnify Defendant. Plaintiff has failed to join the physician as a necessary party to the litigation, making it impossible for this court to adjudicate the A.R.S. § 36-2153 claim.

### III. A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) is unconstitutional.

The statute here cited in support of Plaintiff's Complaint is unconstitutional as applied to Defendant. If the statute creates the cause of action Plaintiff alleges, then it acts as an impermissible content-based prior restraint on speech in violation of the First Amendment to

the United States Constitution. Furthermore, the statute violates the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because it is impossible to determine what acts a person must not do to avoid liability.

### A. A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) violates the First Amendment.

### a. A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) acts as a prior restraint on free speech.

The First Amendment guarantees citizen's the right to freedom of speech and, through the Fourteenth Amendment, this right is protected against state action.<sup>3</sup> A statute acts as a prior restraint on freedom of speech when it suppresses "the precise freedom which the First Amendment sought to protect against abridgment."<sup>4</sup> The Supreme Court of the United States has held there is a "heavy presumption" against the constitutionality of prior restraints on expression.<sup>5</sup> Reasonable restrictions on "time, place, or manner" of protected speech are not prior restraints.<sup>6</sup>

Here, A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) seeks to prevent individuals from expressing their opinion or belief about abortion with no regard to time, place, or manner. The relevant sentence of the statute, which prohibits a person from certain speech at any time and in front of any person, acts as a prior restraint on speech that the Constitution would otherwise protect. Discussing abortion law in front of a pregnant woman could be construed to be prohibited under the statute. Discussing abortion procedures or the risks of full-term pregnancy at a medical symposium could be prohibited. Expressing one's personal opinion about the morality of abortion in a private conversation—e.g., "I believe that bearing an unwanted child who the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Saia v. People of State of New York, 344 U.S. 558, 559-60 (1948).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Carroll v. President and Comm'rs of Princess Anne, 393 U.S. 175, 181, (1968).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Organization for a Better Austin v. Keefe, 402 U.S. 415, 419 (1971) (quoting Carroll v. President and Comm'rs of Princess Anne, 393 U.S. 175, 181, (1968)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 16B C.J.S. Constitutional Law § 937 (2022).

parents cannot support is unethical"—could be construed to violate the statute. All that would be required is that the speech "intimidates" or "coerces" a person "in any way" to receive an abortion. Because those terms are so impenetrably broad—discussed further below—the only guaranteed way to avoid potential liability is to remain silent. That is the textbook definition of prior restraint and plainly violates the Constitution.

A person's right to express their views without fear of liability is *precisely* the freedom the First Amendment is designed to protect.<sup>7</sup> The Supreme Court held this right can only be restricted in a few, limited circumstances, such as when the words themselves are "inherently likely to provoke a violent reaction." Two individual parties privately discussing how to proceed with a pregnancy cannot be prohibited in the manner the statute purports.

### b. A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) is void for vagueness.<sup>9</sup>

A statute is void for vagueness under the First and Fifth Amendments when "the person of ordinary intelligence" is not given "a reasonable opportunity to know what is prohibited" and where application of the law will lead to "arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement." Here, the statute states "A person shall not intimidate or coerce in any way any person to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> *U.S. v. Stevens*, 559 U.S. 460, 461 (2010) ("the First Amendment's free speech guarantee does not extend only to categories of speech that survive an ad hoc balancing of relative social costs and benefits"); *see also Virginia v. Black*, 538 U.S. 343, 348 (2003) "(the hallmark of the protection of free speech is to allow 'free trade in ideas'—even ideas that the overwhelming majority of people might find distasteful or discomforting." (Quoting *Abrams v. United States*, 250 U.S. 616, 630, (1919) (Holmes, J., dissenting)).

<sup>8</sup> *Cohen v. California*, 403 U.S. 15, 20 (1971).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> While the doctrine of vagueness is more commonly applied to criminal or penal statutes, it is also applicable when the statute affects the First Amendment. *Grayned v. City of Rockford*, 408 U.S. 104, 109 (1972) ("[W]here a vague statute 'abut(s) upon sensitive areas of basic First Amendment freedoms,' it 'operates to inhibit the exercise of (those) freedoms'").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Grayned v. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. 104, 108-09 (1972); see also Connally v. General Construction Co., 269 U.S. 385 (1926) (holding a criminal statute is vague when "men of common intelligence must guess as its meaning").

obtain an abortion."<sup>11</sup> (Emphasis added). The statute does not specify what it means to "intimidate or coerce" or what conduct constitutes "any way" of so doing. Although the statute's ostensible purpose is noble—no one should ever be intimidated or coerced into any significant act against their wishes—its mandate is impossible to elucidate.

Defendant's counsel does not routinely ask rhetorical questions in motions, but they seem warranted here. Does expressing a viewpoint about abortion without knowledge of being overheard count as "any way" of intimidating or coercing "any person"? Does it matter whether the person speaking has reason to know "any person" might find their opinion or actions intimidating or coercive? Would handling out pamphlets with information about the possible harm of teen pregnancy constitute intimidation? Does "any person" include someone who is not yet pregnant, or who the speaker does not know is pregnant, or someone who cannot become pregnant at all? Does an actual completed abortion procedure need to take place, or is the mere intimidating or coercive influence sufficiently actionable?

What if the "intimidation" or "coercion" pertains to a medically necessary procedure, such as a husband pleading with his wife to terminate a pregnancy that will likely kill her if carried to full term? An emotional plea between individuals in their private sphere surely cannot be what the statute hopes to enjoin. Can "a person" intimidate or coerce themselves to obtain an abortion? The statute certainly suggests it is possible with its amazingly broad sweep: it doesn't say "A person shall not intimidate ... any *other* person ...".

These questions do not have answers, and that is exactly why the statute must fail. If there is no way for a person to discern what speech or conduct is permitted, then the statute is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> A.R.S. § 36-2153(G).

unconstitutionally vague. A statute like this that has interpretations with no discernible standard of conduct is void for vagueness under the First Amendment.<sup>12</sup>

The legislative history is similarly ambiguous. Under a section entitled "Miscellaneous," the statute's sponsor states the statute, "Stipulates that a person, including a parent or guardian of a minor, shall not coerce in any way a person to obtain an abortion." The legislative sessions following the statute's proposal are devoid of any discussion over the meaning of the provision, and the wording of subsection G remains the same in every iteration of the Bill. The term "abortion coercion" has never been used by Arizona courts to Defendant's knowledge, nor in the Ninth Circuit, or the Supreme Court of the United States.

Absent an ability to discern the meaning of the statute, individuals are not given a reasonable opportunity to conform their conduct to abide by the statute, and its enforcement is likely to be arbitrary and discriminatory. A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) contravenes the rights of individuals to exercise their right to free speech without restrictions or any semblance of clarity as to what conduct the statute is seeking to deter. A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) is void for vagueness and unconstitutional.

### c. A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) is overbroad under the First Amendment.

A statute is overbroad when "a 'substantial number' of its applications are unconstitutional, 'judged in relation to the statute's plainly legitimate sweep."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Connally v. General Construction Co., 269 U.S. 385 (1926).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Arizona House Bill Summary, 2009 Reg. Sess. H.B. 2564.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Grayned v. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. 104, 108-09 (1972).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Washington State Grange v. Washington State Republican Party, 552 U.S. 442, 449 n. 6 (2008); see also State v. Baldwin, 184 Ariz. 267, 269 (1995) (quoting State v. Jones, 177 Ariz. 94, 99 (App.1993)) ("An overbroad statute is one designed to burden or punish activities which are not constitutionally protected, but ... includes within its scope activities which are protected by the First Amendment.")

 A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) does not provide any clarity as to what conduct would constitute a violation nor does the statute define what constitutes as "intimidate or coerce." Therefore, it must be presumed that the statute applies to any speech related to abortion if the receiver subjectively believes it to be intimidating or coercive. Under this reading, any time a person references, speaks about, acknowledges, etc., abortion, the statute may be triggered. It may be assumed for the sake of the analysis that the "plainly legitimate sweep" of the statute would be physical or violent coercion to obtain an abortion—"terminate your pregnancy or else"—but the broad language surely encapsulates speech or behavior that is not criminal.

As such, there are a wide range of conversations that would be considered violative of the statute that are protected by the First Amendment. In particular, the statute could prohibit communication that occurs within the "zone of privacy" protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The Supreme Court held that there is a protected zone that encompasses the conduct of married and unmarried persons, particularly with decisions regarding family planning, as the "decision whether to bear or beget a child" is a fundamental right. As such, the State action seeking to intervene in the right is subjected to strict scrutiny. Given the overbreadth of the statute at issue, it can be presumed that it would fail to survive strict scrutiny.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Griswold v. Connecticut, 318 U.S. 479, 483 (1965) ("[t]he First Amendment has a penumbra where privacy is protected from governmental intrusion.")

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> *Id.* at 485 (holding married couples have a right to privacy); *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, 405 U.S. 438, 453 (1972) ("If the right of privacy means anything, it is the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 318 U.S. 479, 504 (White, J concurring). A statute survives strict scrutiny only when it is narrowly tailored to further a compelling governmental interest.

More generally, suppose an individual electronically posts a statement indicating they are pro-choice on social media, and someone who greatly respects their opinion reads the statement and feels pressure to abort their pregnancy unbeknownst to the speaker. Under the statute, any person who comes across the statement and finds it to be intimidating or coercive could assert that they are a victim of "abortion coercion." Without the ability to discern the meaning of the statute and exclude legitimate permissible conduct from its prohibition, the statute is void for overbreadth and unconstitutional.

WHEREFORE, Defendant hereby respectfully requests the following:

- A. That this Court dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint with regards to the abortion coercion claim with prejudice pursuant to 12(b)(6) or 12(b)(7); in the alternative, that this Court dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint on the grounds that A.R.S. § 36-2153(G) is unconstitutional;
- B. That this Court award Defendant his attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-341, 12-349; and
- C. That this Court grant such other and further relief as deemed appropriate.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this 15th day of February 2022.

WOODNICK LAW, PLLC

Gregg R. Woodnick

Kaci Y. Bowman

Attorneys for Defendant

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1	ORIGINAL of the foregoing e-filed This 15th day of February 2022, with the Clerk of the Superior Court.	
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4	COPY of the foregoing document e-mailed the same day to: Honorable Alison Bachus Maricopa County Superior Court	
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8	Laura Owens	
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10	Plaintiff Pro Per	
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12	By: <u>/s/Sara Seeburg</u>	
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# GOOD FAITH CONSULTATION CERTIFICATE

In conformance with Rules 7.1(h) and 12(j), Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, counsel undersigned hereby certifies that he conferred in good faith with Plaintiff, Laura Owens, on February 3, 2022 regarding the Defendant's Motion to Dismiss dated 02/15/22.

WOODNICK LAW, FLLC

Kiregg R. Woodnick Kaci Y. Bowman Attorneys for Defendant

### **VERIFICATION**

GREGORY GILLESPIE, being first duly sworn upon his oath, deposes and says:

That he is the Respondent in the foregoing cause of action; that as such, he is authorized to make this Verification; that he has read the foregoing *Motion to Dismiss/Motion for Judgment on Pleadings of Plaintiff's Abortion Coercion Claim,* and knows the contents thereof to be true of his own knowledge, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to such, he believes the same to be true.

GROSATEFERECASS	2/15/2022	
GREGORY GILLESPIE	Date	