

13 September 2022

**Southwest Women's Law Center
Official Statement on Adopting a Reproductive Justice Framework**

The Southwest Women's Law Center is committed to a Reproductive Justice framework. Not only does a Reproductive Justice framework encompass a full spectrum view of reproductive issues, but it is more reflective of the experiences and population of New Mexico.

Two primary frameworks are used for reproductive issues: Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Justice. The Reproductive Rights framework focuses primarily on abortion and contraception, positioning abortion as an individual's personal and private choice. The Reproductive Justice framework focuses on 1) the right to have children, 2) the right not to have children, and 3) the right to raise the children we have in a safe a dignified manner. This framework is not confined to abortion and contraception, but includes all aspects associated with the reproductive experience including access to reproductive care for those with disabilities, menstruation, fertility treatments, surrogacy, and childcare.

Reproductive Justice is also more representative of the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community. The framework of Reproductive Justice reflects its origins and the experiences of reproductive care among people in the BIPOC community. Throughout the history of the United States, members of the BIPOC community have been denied their right to have children through medical experimentation and forced sterilization; denied the right not to have children by

limiting abortion services through acts like the Hyde Amendment and the recent overturning of *Roe v. Wade* through the *Dobbs v. Jackson Whole Women's Health* decision; and were denied the right to raise their children through family separation policies and forcing children to attend boarding schools where many never left alive. All these reasons are why SWLC programs like Menstrual Equity, Childcare Next, the continuing work against Crisis Pregnancy Centers, and Paid Family & Medical Leave are so important. These programs promote the tenets of Reproductive Justice, strive to uplift reproductive care and the right to raise children in the BIPOC community, and keep the SWLC engaged in issues the majority of New Mexicans care about.

The Southwest Women's Law Center believes that applying a Reproductive Justice framework to our advocacy on community and reproductive issues benefits everyone. New Mexican birthing people, families of all types, communities, those that raise children, those that need fertility treatments, and those that face difficulties accessing reproductive care due to disabilities are some of the many groups our organization advocates on behalf of daily. For these reasons, the Southwest Women's Law Center is committed to working with a reproductive justice framework and urges other groups in this space to do the same.

Sincerely,

Terrelene Massey
Executive Director
Attorney At Law