

Abortion

If you are considering an abortion, we want you to know what this choice could mean to your future. You do have the choice not to have an abortion and we can help. We want to help you avoid being hurt physically and emotionally by offering solutions.

You don't need to make this decision right away. Slow down and allow time to think. Don't let anyone tell you that you have to have an abortion. We exist to help you explore your options. There are risks to most abortion procedures. Because of these dangers we do not recommend or refer for abortion.

Here are some things to consider before you make this decision:

Know the possible risks in an abortion

From the thousands of women now working in the pregnancy care world who have had abortions, we know that abortion has physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological risks.

Confirm your pregnancy with a doctor who doesn't do abortions

It is possible that the abortion facility may provide you with incorrect information in order to obtain your abortion fee. Carol Everett is a woman who used to provide abortion services in Texas. She testified in Congress that she sold abortions to women who were not pregnant but feared they were. For the best medical input on abortion we recommend you speak with a medical professional that has nothing to gain in your abortion decision.

Get a free ultrasound

You may receive a free ultrasound from Alpha House. This non-diagnostic ultrasound can tell you how many weeks you are into the pregnancy. This service, provided by a certified nurse or sonographer, may aid you in making this important decision.

Ask for the doctor's name that is performing the abortion

Abortion is legal in the United States but bad medical care is not. Women have died as a result of their "safe and legal" abortions. Some have had their bodies hurt to the point that they can no longer have children. If you don't know the abortionist's name that is doing your abortion, you may not find out. The abortionist could be counting on you not holding him accountable for hurting you because many women are afraid to let anyone know about this choice afterwards. Ask for his name and write it down.

Don't sign anything that releases the abortionist or the abortion facility from being responsible for hurting you during your abortion

Many women have said that they were so upset by the emotion of the day that they signed anything put in front of them in order to "get out and have it done with." If the center asks you to sign anything, take your time to read it over. If you don't understand something, ask questions. If you don't understand their answers, push them further. Don't be in a rush because anything you sign could affect you in the future.

Understand you have rights in an abortion

It is against the law for anyone to force you to have an abortion. Not even a husband or parent can require you to undergo an abortion against your will, even if you are a minor (over 12 years old). Our center exists to help you in any circumstance. We can help you discuss this choice with those closest to you that are influencing your decision. The law in many states also requires abortion providers to give you information on: 1) possible complications, 2) the development of the baby and 3) organizations that provide alternatives to abortion.

Verify that the abortion facility is clean and sanitary

Many women report that the general area of the facility where they had their abortions was unclean, dusty and even smelled bad. Infections can result from unsanitary conditions. If you find yourself in a facility be sure to question their sanitizing procedures and view the condition of each room to ensure that you are receiving excellent care. If they don't provide sufficient information to determine these conditions, give yourself permission to leave and demand a refund of your money.

Understand you can change your mind - even at the last minute

Many women who have experienced abortion relay that they felt they had to go through with the procedure once they had entered the facility. Others say that they waited on the abortion table to be "rescued" by their boyfriend at the last minute. Some facilities even told the women that they couldn't get their money back if they changed their mind.

Abortion providers know that this is an agonizing decision and sometimes see women change their mind at the last minute because, as they say, "I simply can't do this!" Know your rights. Don't be pressured or intimidated. If the procedure is not performed, demand your money back.

Understand that it's not a "blob of tissue"

Some abortion facilities tell women that their babies are not human at all but simply a "blob of tissue" or a "dot". For many it is easier to have an abortion if they believe their child isn't yet human. Ultrasound photos show that at early stages of pregnancy the humanness of the embryo is clearly evident. When some women see these photos after their abortion they are overwhelmed and grieved that the information the abortion facility provides was misleading. An ultrasound will reveal the true development of your child.

Know you are not alone

Women who feel like they have no other choice often change their minds when visiting our center and understanding our support services. We exist to support you in your pregnancy. We offer practical assistance to help you overcome some obstacles.

1 Mainline Confirms hCG, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Mainline Technology, Inc.

2 Carol Everett, What I Saw In The Abortion Industry, Jefferson City, MO: Easton Publishing, Inc

Abortion Risks

Abortion isn't necessarily as "safe and easy" as many make it out to be. Here is a list of the risks of abortion - surgical and chemical:

Surgical Abortions

Future Ectopic Pregnancies:

- Studies point out that the risk of an ectopic or tubal (not in the uterus but in the tubes that lead to the uterus) pregnancy is 30% higher for women who have had one abortion, and up to four times higher for women with two or more abortions. ¹
- When a woman has an ectopic pregnancy she has a 12% risk of dying in a future pregnancy.

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID):

- 5% of women suffer PID following induced (or surgical) abortion. PID can lead to fever and infertility (not being able to get pregnant again) ²
- There is a 23% higher risk of infection if you have an STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease).
- 40% of the sexually active are suspected carriers of STDs. ³

Placenta Previa:

Placenta previa is a condition in pregnancy where the sac holding the baby (the placenta) tears away from the uterine lining. This can result in extreme and severe life-threatening bleeding. Women who have experienced abortion have a 600% increase in their risk for placenta previa in future pregnancies. ⁵

Infertility:

Infertility and sterility mean that a woman cannot get pregnant. Abortion causes sterility in 2-5% of the women who have an abortion. ⁶

Psychological/Emotional Trauma:

50% of women who have had abortions report experiencing emotional and psychological problems lasting for months or years. These emotions include, but aren't limited to:

- acute feeling of grief
- depression
- anger
- fear of disclosure
- preoccupation with babies or getting pregnant again
- nightmares
- sexual dysfunction
- termination of relationships
- emotional coldness
- increased alcohol and drug abuse
- eating disorders
- anxiety
- flashbacks of the abortion procedure
- anniversary syndrome
- repeat abortions
- suicide⁸

Many of these women go on to report that they regret their choice and would do anything to go back and undo the decision that resulted in so much pain.

Medical (Chemical) abortion risks include (but are not limited to):

"The Morning After Pill" (Emergency Contraception Pill) - Acts as an abortifacient - If taken within 72 hours of intercourse it prevents pregnancy 75% of the time. Medical problems would be similar to birth control pills, however effects could be more pronounced.⁹

Methotrexate - (given prior to 8 weeks) Doctors don't like to prescribe this chemical because of its high toxicity and unpredictable side effects. Those side effects include but are not limited to:

- nausea
- pain
- diarrhea
- bone marrow depression
- anemia
- liver damage
- lung disease
- heavy bleeding for as long as 40 days
- abortion may occur anywhere

This chemical may not work and a surgical abortion may still be required.¹⁰

Psychological/ Emotional Trauma: In addition to the risks listed above, women having chemical abortions often see the complete tiny bodies of their unborn child and are even able to see the child's developing hands, eyes, etc. So traumatic is this for some women that it is recommended that women unprepared for the experience not take the drugs. ¹¹

If you are considering abortion because of your circumstances, know that you can change your situation. If you aren't sure about this choice, take time to find out "why" you have these feelings. We are here to help you in any situation regardless of your decision.

Works Cited:

1 Abortion: Your Risks, Stafford, VA.: American Life League.

2 Ibid.

3 Is Sex Safe? Lewiston, N.Y.: Life Cycle Books.

4 You Have A Right To Know, Jefferson City, MO.: Easton Publishing Co.

5 Abortion: Your Risks.

6 You Have A Right To Know.

7 Abortion: Your Risks.

8 Teri K. Reisser and Paul C. Reisser, Identifying and Overcoming Post-Abortion Syndrome, Colorado Springs, CO.: Focus on the Family

9 "Oral Contraceptives & The Morning After Pill," Take Heart, Columbus Ohio: Heartbeat International

10 "Abortion Some Medical Facts," NRLC

11 Ibid

Resource: www.pregnancycenter.net