

Abortion-Minded Caller

If you have not already had the experience of talking on the phone to a woman (or fellow) who wants to know where they can go to get an abortion, you probably will. Although we do not want to get into “counseling sessions” on the phone, there are some practical things you can do/say at this point, instead of just cutting it off right away by saying we don’t refer for abortions. The goal is to get her to come into the Center for a face to face session.

You still need to be up front that we do not refer for abortions, but at the same time, try to build a rapport with the person. It is so important to get at the deeper issues—how are they feeling, what is going on in their life. Remember, these are hurting people. Treat them with dignity and love. Below are examples of the sorts of things you can say (depending on the circumstances).

THEY MAY ASK:

How Much Does an Abortion Cost? –

That depends on how far along you are in the pregnancy and what kind of abortion you have. In this part of the state abortions during the first trimester (first 12 weeks) or so generally costs \$800. If you are considering abortion, you must be under a lot of stress right now. My name is _____, and I would like to help you. Would you like to tell me a little about your situation?

Can a Teenager Get An Abortion Without Her Parents Knowing It? –

In IN and KY, the law is that parental consent is required for minors seeking an abortion. If you are considering abortion, you must be under a lot of stress right now. My name is _____, and I would like to help you. Would you like to tell me a little about your situation?

Do You Do Abortions? -

We offer abortion information. We do not perform or refer for them. Have you had a pregnancy test? I am here to help you; I won’t profit from any choice you make. I can help you with your concerns questions, and possible fear regarding abortion and how abortion might affect your health and future. If you are considering abortion, you must be under a lot of stress right now. My name is _____, and I would like to help you. Would you like to tell me a little about your situation?

OR

“We do not offer abortions here, however, how have you confirmed that you are pregnant?

- We offer FREE pregnancy test (99.7%) accurate.
- No appointment is necessary – encourage her to come in

IF SHE IS ABORTION-MINDED AND HAS ALREADY COMPLETED PREGNANCY TEST

“You mentioned earlier that you couldn’t have this baby. Can you tell me about the circumstances that make it difficult for you to carry to term?”

After listening

“Well I’m glad you came to us. We offer a free service that can help you at a time like this. Our limited ultrasound scan can confirm if your pregnancy is viable (capable of developing normally). This is especially helpful information to women who have not eliminated the possibility of abortion OR are being pressured to have or consider an abortion.”

(Why is viability of the pregnancy so important?)

Viability of the pregnancy is an issue because medical sources show that a very large percentage of pregnancies end in miscarriage. A qualified ultrasound exam can detect a threatened or incomplete miscarriage as early as six-weeks gestational age and possibly save the mother the pain and expense of an abortion.

“I understand how you might feel a sense of urgency and the need to take quick action. As with any other medical treatment, you need to take some time to get informed. A simple ultrasound can determine if you have a viable pregnancy.”

Schedule her for an ultrasound. Be sure to ask her permission for her name and phone number and make sure you ask permission to make a reminder call. If she doesn’t want us to call her that is perfectly okay.

IF SHE WILL NOT MAKE ANY APPOINTMENTS:

“If you do make this choice (for abortion) and ever feel like you need to talk to someone, please feel free to call us, we offer post-abortion support.”

OTHER QUESTIONS/RESPONSES:

IF SHE SOUNDS ANXIOUS:

“You sound really anxious about this—is this decision you have really had a chance to think through?”

“I understand right now you are feeling pretty anxious about being pregnant. Could I just encourage you take some time to really think about this decision, before you rush off to have an abortion?”

IF SHE SOUNDS MATTER OF FACT:

“Are you aware that there can be emotional and physical complications resulting from an abortion?”

AFTER YOU HAVE TALKED FOR A BIT:

“When you come in we can give you the information you need to make an informed decision.”

What do you understand about fetal development?...Would you like me to explain to you what is occurring developmentally in the life of your child at this time in his/her life? Refer to “First Nine Month” Brochure

What do you understand about the type of abortion that would be performed at your gestation stage in the pregnancy?...Would you like to know what would take place during the procedure? Refer to “Before You Decide” brochure

Could you help me understand some of the reasons you are considering abortion?

Write down reasons as she speaks.

Repeat reasons back to her i.e. So you are considering abortion due to ...

Look at our services offered and community services we could help her with and see which meet her needs in a practical way

What legal rights are you familiar with before and after an abortion?

Encourage her to come in and get a “Patient’s Rights” Before they have an abortion to protect themselves from any harm or possible harm.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Boyfriend considering pregnancy termination –. Try to schedule both to come in and make provisions for someone to counsel with them individually as well as together. Talk to him about his feelings and responsibilities.

Parent considering pregnancy termination –Talk to him/her about their feelings and responsibilities. Be sensitive knowing they are hurting and reacting in a protective manner toward their child. Try to get them to come in with daughter and have someone talk to the parents as well.

Again, encourage her to come in.

Abortion Minded Caller Guide

Remember you are the believer, God is the performer!

Purpose of the call: Abortion Information:

If you are considering abortion, you must be under a lot of stress. My name is _____ and I would like to help you. May I ask your first name?

What are some of the obstacles you are facing that have brought you to this decision?

Try to get her to come into the center if at all possible:

"It would be really great if I could meet with you personally and talk more about this. Would you like to come into our center?"

"I have sensed from talking to you that you really don't want to have an abortion—would you be willing to come in and talk with me?"

Or

What are the circumstances in your life right now that make you feel like abortion is the only option?

(Listen intently and make notes)

We don't offer abortions here, however did you already do a pregnancy test?

If No: We would like to offer you a free pregnancy test. Which would be a better time for you to come in daytime or evening? (Schedule the appointment)

If Yes: **What was the first day of your last period?** (Use the pregnancy wheel to determine how far along she is) Did you know that 1 out of 4 women miscarry? We can offer you a free ultrasound to determine if it is a viable pregnancy.

Other questions you may want to ask:

Is this decision something that you want, or is someone putting pressure on you?

You sound really anxious about this – is this a decision you have really had a chance to think through?

I understand right now you are feeling pretty anxious about being pregnant. Could I just encourage you take some time to really think about this decision before you rush into a decision you may regret later.

If she asks you, "Are you pro-choice or pro-life?"

It depends how you define those terms...

We are pro-life in that we believe that once conception has occurred, that not only is the woman's life important, but that the life within the womb is precious human being.

However, we fully recognize that a woman has three choices: to abort, parent or place for adoption. We believe in informed choice—that she really understands what each of these choices mean for her.

Obstacles: Remember that an in-person meeting is best

If she is afraid of losing her boyfriend:

“Abortion may seem like a quick solution, especially if your boyfriend is putting pressure on you, but quite often when a woman has an abortion in order to keep her boyfriend—the relationship breaks up anyway because of all the emotional turmoil involved with abortion.”

Abortion Risks:

Physical

Some side effects which may occur are abdominal pain, cramping, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Some bleeding after abortion is normal, however there is a risk of hemorrhage, infection, allergic reaction to drugs, tearing of the cervix, scarring of the uterine lining, perforation of the uterus, damage to internal organs and even death.

Emotional

Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS) Symptoms: Guilt, Anger, Anxiety, Depression, Suicidal thoughts, anniversary grief, flashbacks of abortion, sexual dysfunction, relationship problems, eating disorders, alcohol and drug abuse and psychological reactions

Spiritual

People have different understandings of God. Whatever your present beliefs may be, there is a spiritual side to abortion that deserves to be considered. It may affect more than just your body and your mind—it may have an impact on your relationship with God. Some important decisions to consider are, “What is God’s desire for you in this situation?” and “How does God see your unborn child?”

Adoption Referral Information:

What alternatives are you familiar with?

If you are not planning on keeping the baby, adoption is an option with adoption your pregnancy ends, but with giving life instead of taking it away.

There are over 2,000,000 families waiting to adopt. And many times you are able to meet the adoptive parents and even choose whom you would like to place your child with.

With adoption you are given the opportunity to give your child life and provide for the baby a loving home – which equals being a good mother.

Bethany Christian Services 1-800-238-4269 (BETHANY)
8 a.m. – Midnight
www.bethany.org

St. Elizabeth’s Regional Maternity Center (Indiana) 812-949-7305
601 E. Market Street New Albany, IN 47150