

Crisis Pregnancy Centers:

Services and Agendas

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When faced with an unplanned pregnancy, you may find it helpful to discuss your feelings with somebody who will be supportive and unbiased. Deciding whether to continue with a pregnancy, place a baby for adoption, or seek an abortion is a personal choice that only you can decide. Some women have found it to be helpful to find a neutral person as support during this confusing time. You can talk to a specially trained counselor or health educator at a family planning clinic.

If you choose to speak with a counselor about your pregnancy options, be careful when selecting a family planning center. You want to make sure that you find a clinic that will provide you with accurate, complete, and reliable information about all of your pregnancy options.

Be Cautious of Crisis Pregnancy Centers:

Many crisis pregnancy centers advertise and name themselves to give the impression that they are neutral health-care providers. The majority of these facilities have an anti-abortion philosophy. Though some do provide open, honest and neutral support and information, many of these clinics may be coercive and could potentially overwhelm women with their anti-abortion philosophy. Typically, women are lured into these centers under the false notion that they will receive balanced and unbiased information about pregnancy tests, sonograms, birth control, pregnancy options, and abortion.

These centers will often rely on scare tactics, emotional manipulation and intimidation to convince women not to seek abortions. Many provide free pregnancy tests, but they use the same commercially-available tests that you can buy in any drug store. Also, most centers do not have a license to practice medicine, so although they may offer free sonograms, but their staff are not properly trained in using this device, and their counselors are often not licensed to provide counseling or intervention.

Services of Crisis Pregnancy Centers:

Also referred to as pregnancy resource centers, these clinics may often offer financial support to women contemplating abortion by providing these women with food, formula, baby equipment, rent, and/or clothing. *Time* magazine reports that the latest trend is “to convert pregnancy centers into health clinics that offer free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds and testing for sexually transmitted diseases. What they will not offer is referral for birth control.”

In fact, the only time most staff at many of these crisis pregnancy centers will advise a woman to talk to her doctor about contraception is if the woman inquiring is married. Deborah Wood (CEO of Asheville Pregnancy Support Services in N.C.) tells *Time* magazine that her clinics do not provide contraception information because many of the women who come to her clinic are not married, and “the Bible clearly states that sex outside of marriage is against God’s will for our lives.”

Crisis Pregnancy Center Agendas:

Many in the medical community assert that pregnancy resource centers rely on emotional tactics to convince women not to obtain abortions. There is also concern over the fact that many of these clinic offer ultrasounds that are preformed by people with limited training. Ms. Wood openly admits that at her center, she shows women tiny rubber fetuses and explains to the client that this is what her baby looks like and weighs. She also reports that when providing an ultrasound, she asks the pregnant woman what name she would like to put on the ultrasound photo.

Often times, women go into centers without realizing that CPCs have this moral agenda and are not prepared for the emotional turmoil that many pregnancy resource centers rely upon. Christopher Hollis (Vice President for Planned Parenthood’s Governmental and Political Affairs) declares, “What is tragic to me is that a woman goes into a center looking for information, looking to be able to make a better, healthy choice, and she doesn’t get all the facts. That’s taking someone’s life and playing a really dangerous game with it.”

Misleading Women:

The National Abortion Federation explains that crisis pregnancy centers mislead women by intentionally choosing a clinic name that implies that they offer a wide range of services, including family planning and abortion care.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers may also:

- Have telephone operators who typically evade questions about whether they provide abortions while urging the woman to make an appointment to speak with a counselor in person.
- They often design their facilities to look like actual health-care clinics and place them near clinics that offer abortions (to increase their legitimacy).
- Many do not mention anywhere on their websites that the center does not provide or make referrals for abortions or birth control, but instead claim to provide a "nonjudgmental environment" where "each option" can be explored.

Sources:

Used in this article as well a general sources attesting to the truth about crisis pregnancy centers.

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