

## Do You Know Someone Being Coerced Into Having an Abortion?



▶ If you know someone who is experiencing an unintended pregnancy and is being made to feel, by those around her, that abortion is her only “choice”, please give her this brochure and inform her that there are many **genuine** services available to her. Confidently explain to her: **She is not alone!**

If you know or suspect that she is scheduled for “counseling” at an abortion facility, please tell her that nobody is legally permitted to perform an abortion on her without her **WRITTEN CONSENT.**

If she does not want an abortion, or she is still unsure and needs more time to think it through, **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT SHE DOES NOT SIGN ANY PAPERS.**

## Help Is Available

Lake County Right to Life publishes a brochure of agencies and facilities in NE Ohio and beyond which offer help to women who are experiencing unintended pregnancy. Please call our office at 440-255-5257 or send an email request to [lcrtl@ncweb.com](mailto:lcrtl@ncweb.com) to receive a free copy.

NO WOMAN SHOULD BE MADE TO FEEL THAT ABORTION IS HER ONLY OPTION. NO WOMAN SHOULD BE MADE TO FEEL THAT KILLING HER CHILD WILL SOLVE HER PROBLEMS.

For the complete text of the laws cited in this brochure, contact Ohio Right to Life at 614-547-0099.

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## Lake County Right To Life



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*Respecting the dignity of the human person at all stages.*



# FORCED/ COERCED ABORTIONS ARE ILLEGAL

▶ **Ohio Law  
Protects the  
Rights of  
Pregnant Women**



**Lake County Right to Life**

**440-255-5257**

# Pregnant Women are Vulnerable Women

Women, regardless of age, who are experiencing unintended pregnancy, generally have a number of seemingly conflicting emotions. Some are angry that this has happened to them. Many, upon first learning they're carrying a child, actually begin their emotional roller coaster feeling a sort of scared, happy excitement. Learning that there's a new life within, for many mothers, is awe-inspiring, empowering news.

▶ But for the mother who didn't want to become pregnant...whose sexual relationship is built on "conditions" (the father of her child has stressed that she'd better be "using something")...who may in fact have tried to take every precaution to prevent it from occurring...the news that she's pregnant can elicit in her a multitude of fears which may overwhelm her.

## What Will the Father of Her Child Say?

Will he be furious? Disappointed? Frightened? Will he threaten to end the relationship if she doesn't "take care of it"? Would he become violent? What if he says the baby's not his? What if he can't cope with the news, runs off and leaves her stranded?

## And How Will Her Parents Act?

Will they fly off the handle? Be disappointed, even very sad? Will they threaten to throw her out? Send her away? Take away her privileges? Become cold, quiet and distant?

**Hopefully**, she'll be relieved to learn they're surprisingly compassionate, calm and supportive.

But, the frightened woman who has not yet shared the news of her pregnancy with anyone else might be imagining the worst possible scenario.

And unfortunately, sometimes the father of the child does react badly to the news. Sometimes even her closest friends, co-workers or employer tell her she's careless or stupid or even selfish. Sadly, not all relationships are healthy ones.

**When she finds herself facing these unkind, unloving and unfair reactions, she is left feeling she has let everybody down.**

Unrealistically, she often feels she's entirely responsible for becoming pregnant. In her mind, she has "messed up" and maybe even "messed up" the plans other people have made for her life. She may conclude that in order to make up for her "mistake", she should give in to their wishes that she "solve the problem" by having an abortion. Guilt is a powerful feeling.

But, a guilt-prompted abortion will produce even more traumatizing guilt in her, when she later fully realizes she has killed her own child.



## The Law Is On Her Side

The good news is, she has several Ohio laws to protect her decision not to abort. Her family, boyfriend, husband or her acquaintances can criticize, make threats, throw tantrums or attempt to manipulate her to the point of tears. But, **they don't have the legal right to make her have an abortion, regardless of her age or her circumstances. She does not have to submit nor consent to an abortion, regardless of what she's been told.**

*Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 2317.56(B)(4) states (except in the case of medical emergency):* "Prior to the performance or inducement of the abortion, the pregnant woman signs a form consenting to the abortion and certifies...on the form...: "She consents to the particular abortion voluntarily, knowingly, intelligently and without coercion by any person and she is not under the influence of any drug or abuse or alcohol."

*ORC Section 2919.12(A) states:* "No person shall perform or induce an abortion without the informed consent of the pregnant woman."

Furthermore, there are laws to protect pregnant women from other forms of coercion.

*ORC Section 2701.15 states:* "No person shall be ordered by a court to submit to an abortion"

*OR Section 5101.55(A) states:* "No person shall be ordered by a public agency or any person to submit to an abortion."

*It states further, in 5101.55 (B) "The refusal of any person to submit to an abortion...shall not result in the loss of public assistance benefits or any other rights or privileges."*

*According to House Bill 280 :* In addition to protecting pregnant women from violence and coerced abortions, the new law will allow proof of a pattern of failing to report known or suspected child sexual abuse in a lawsuit for damages against abortion facilities or others who are required to report child abuse.

