

If you're pregnant, there are people who want to help you. You may be scared or unsure what to do. You can find counselors and support in making the best decision for you. In unexpected pregnancies, many women will visit either a Pregnancy Care Center or a Planned Parenthood Center. The information below will help you decide which you should visit.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

The Work: Pregnancy Care Centers (PCCs) exist to give help to women in crisis pregnancies. These centers provide free pregnancy tests and many also offer free ultrasounds if the test is positive. The pregnant woman is presented with information on her options to help her decide what she needs to do.

The Money: Pregnancy Care Centers are locally run not-for-profit organizations. They rely on donations to offer their services at no cost to their clients. Many businesses and community groups donate because of the help they provide to women during and after pregnancy. Because PCCs don't charge for their services, they rely heavily on knowledgeable volunteers.

The History: Pregnancy Care Centers grew out of a need to provide complete information about all the options available to pregnant women. At one time, individuals worked alone to provide needed services for women, including places to live and families they could be a part of. It became apparent there was a need for professional counseling services and medical ultrasounds. During the 1990s many individual organizations affiliated and began working together to offer needed services to women in crisis pregnancies. They provide help at no charge, letting women know all their options.

The Politics: Pregnancy Care Centers as a whole tend to stay out of politics. Their goals are to work with women one-on-one and to give the non-judgmental support and counsel they need. While some PCCs get limited grants, they are normally for very specific programs and are relatively small. Instead of focusing on these, they normally work to get donors who want to help women.

The Last Thought: Pregnancy Care Centers are individual organizations that started as a way to provide help to women in crisis pregnancies. Their goal is to give non-judgmental support, counseling, and information. Find one near you at **1-800-395-HELP**.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The Work: Planned Parenthood exists to help women avoid or end pregnancies. They provide birth-control services, STD testing, and surgical abortions. In 2007 their doctors aborted 305,310 pre-born babies.¹ Planned Parenthood is also involved in politics to secure government money and laws favorable to abortion.

The Money: Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit organization with affiliates around the country. Their money comes from fees they charge for services (including abortions), government grants, and large donations from people like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet.² It is estimated nearly one-third of their billion-dollar budget comes from what they charge for surgical abortions.³

The History: Planned Parenthood was founded by Margaret Sanger,⁶ who was trying to make sure the "feeble-minded ... be prevented from propagating their kind."⁴ She did not believe the poor should have children because she thought they would be ignorant and "ignorance breeds poverty and poverty breeds ignorance."⁵ Planned Parenthood was begun so that the "poor" and "ignorant" wouldn't have as many children. Originally focused on birth control to stop the poor from having children,¹⁰ Planned Parenthood now focuses its attention on placing clinics mostly in poor minority neighborhoods.¹¹

The Politics: Planned Parenthood is deeply involved in politics and has its own lobbying arm. The organization fights to insure that girls under 18 can have abortions without telling their parents⁷ and to insure that doctors are not required to give information (such as ultrasounds⁸) to women before an abortion. They also fight against laws that would require telling women seeking abortion about the risks involved.⁹

The Last Thought: Planned Parenthood is an organization founded on the strange belief that the poor should not have children. They make money by charging for abortions and file lawsuits to ensure doctors don't have to give women all the information they need.

The Questions You Should Ask

If you are going to get help with your decision about your pregnancy, you should always ask some basic questions. Whether going to a Pregnancy Care Center, Planned Parenthood, or other abortion clinic, you need to know the answers to these questions to make sure the organization is there to help you.

- Will you show me an ultrasound of the baby before I decide whether or not to get an abortion?
- Are your services free or do you charge?
- If I choose to have the baby, will you support me with my decision? How? Do you offer parenting classes?
- What are the risks of abortion/adoption/parenting? What will it do to my body? What will it do to my baby?
- If I am interested in adoption, what information do you have to help me?

When deciding where to go for help, choose an organization that will talk about all of your options. You need help and support, whatever your decision – not biased, limited information.

Choose an organization that really cares about you and what you are going through. Carefully consider if they are just doing what they do to make money or to truly help you through this difficult time.

Choose an organization which will look out for all your long-term interests, not just a quick solution that may cause more problems in the future.

For help finding the right organization in your area, call **1-800-395-HELP**.

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9. Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey (91-744), 505 U.S. 833 (1992)
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11. Williams, Rebecca, Knox News, "Some say Planned Parenthood relocation to East Knox racially motivated", March 13, 2010. Found at <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/mar/13/clinic-move-questioned/> accessed on 10/24/2010.

For help with your pregnancy options including abortion, adoption, and parenting, please contact:

Or call the 24-hour help-line at 1-800-395-HELP

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Pregnancy Care Center or Planned Parenthood?

Comparing **Truth** ↔