

Abortion:

what it is

and

how to get one

provide
EVERYONE HAS A ROLE



**Kentucky Religious Coalition
for Reproductive Choice**

the religious community
in support of reproductive health and justice

If you are pregnant,

you have the right to the full range of pregnancy options:

- you can continue the pregnancy and become a parent
- you can continue the pregnancy and make a plan for adoption
- you can end the pregnancy with an abortion

If you choose to continue

the pregnancy, you should seek prenatal care as soon as possible. You may qualify for public assistance to help you pay for the costs of prenatal care. See the back of this brochure for a number to call to get started.

If you choose to end

the pregnancy, you have the right to an abortion. There is a list of clinics and supportive services on the back of this brochure.

It's up to you

to decide what is the best choice for you. If you choose an abortion, it's up to you to decide who you tell about the choice you make. Resources are available to help you with the decision. See the back of the brochure for all-options counseling, parenting and health care support, as well as post-abortion counseling.

Abortion is a safe medical procedure

and it is legal in the state of Kentucky, for all reasons (elective or therapeutic), up to 21 weeks and 6 days. Gestational age is calculated from the first day of your last menstrual period.

There are two types of abortion: medical and surgical.

A medical abortion involves taking medication that causes miscarriage. A medical abortion is available up to eight weeks gestation. Surgical abortion is an out-patient procedure that typically involves sedation, so if you need this option you'll need someone to accompany you to the clinic. Surgical abortion procedures take place on one or two days, depending on how far along you are in the pregnancy.

If you have questions

about abortion and how it will affect you, ask the clinic staff! They are there to answer your questions and to make sure you understand what's happening and what to expect when you have an abortion. The phone numbers are on the back of this brochure.

Per Kentucky law, you must receive

informed consent counseling

24 hours before your abortion. The abortion clinic staff can complete this counseling with you over the phone. The clinic staff will answer any questions you have and ask you questions to make sure that you are resolved in your decision to get an abortion and to ensure that you're not being forced by another person.

If you are under 18,

Kentucky law requires you to obtain permission of a parent or guardian to obtain an abortion. If you cannot get that permission, you have the right to seek a judicial bypass. If you need to seek a judicial bypass, tell the clinic this when you make your appointment and they can help you contact a lawyer. With or without a lawyer's assistance, a judge will decide whether to grant your request for a judicial bypass that will enable you to receive an abortion.

You will likely have to pay

out of pocket for your abortion. Medicaid and private insurance cannot cover abortion, except in special circumstances. Abortion is priced according to gestational age, so the price goes up the farther along you are in pregnancy. If you need help paying for an abortion, there are some resources listed on the back of this brochure.

Some facts about abortion:

- Birth control pills prevent pregnancy; they do not cause abortions.
- Condoms are over 90% effective in preventing pregnancy.
- Emergency contraception, the 'morning after' pill or Plan B, is safe and highly effective. It works by preventing ovulation or fertilization; it does not cause an abortion.
- Abortion is a safe procedure.
- Abortion is a normal part of health care for many women – of all ages, religions, marital status, and ethnic backgrounds.
- One out of every three women in the U.S. has had an abortion by the age of 45.
- There is no link between abortion and breast cancer.
- There is no link between abortion and mental illness, lasting psychological problems, increased suicide risk, drug dependency or alcoholism.
- Abortions do not cause infertility or sexually transmitted diseases.
- Women who have had abortions experience a wide range of emotions, but studies show that the most common feeling a woman has after an abortion is relief.
- Many religions support your ability to make this very personal decision.

Referrals

ALL-OPTIONS COUNSELING

Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (faith-based counseling): 866-606-0988

Faith Aloud (faith-based counseling): 888-717-5010

Backline (non-religious counseling): 888-493-0092

HEALTHCARE, PARENTING SUPPORT, WIC, etc.:

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services: 1-800-372-2973

FUNDING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

National Abortion Federation (funding assistance): 800-772-9100

Kentucky Support Network (funding assistance, transportation, and other supports): 855-576-4576

A Fund (funding assistance): A Fund assistance is administered directly through the clinic. Ask the clinic about your eligibility.

ABORTION CLINICS

EMW Women's Center Louisville: 502-589-2124

EMW Women's Center Lexington: 859-278-0331

There are also clinics in surrounding states that offer abortion services at different prices and up to different gestational ages. For reliable information, call the clinic directly or call Kentucky Support Network for a referral.

POST-PROCEDURE COUNSELING

Exhale: 1-866-439-4253


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