



## Christian Voices for Life

### Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

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### This week's Topic: Coerced and Forced Abortions

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**Education:** Those in favor of legal abortion often talk about a woman's "right to choose". The truth, however, is that most abortions are unwanted, coerced, or even forced. Escalating pressure to abort can come from employers, husbands, parents, doctors, partners, profit-driven abortion businesses, landlords, friends and family, or even trusted financial, personal, school or religious advisors. They may be negligent in telling young or vulnerable individuals or couples about available resources. They may misrepresent information or present false information as fact. They may threaten or blackmail. These are not idle threats. Coercion can escalate to violence. As a report from the Elliot institute<sup>1</sup> shows,

women who resist abortion have been beaten, tortured and killed. A former abortion clinic security guard testified before the Massachusetts legislature that women were routinely threatened and abused by the boyfriends or husbands who took them to the clinics to make sure they underwent their scheduled abortions,<sup>2</sup> and yet clinics fail to screen for coercion.<sup>3</sup> Many women are also pressured by clinic staff financially rewarded for selling abortions.<sup>4</sup>

1. David Reardon, "Forced Abortion in America" available online at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org) and at [www.ChristianVoicesforLife.org](http://www.ChristianVoicesforLife.org)
2. Brian McQuarrie, "Guard, clinic at odds at abortion hearing," *Boston Globe*, April 16, 1999.
3. See [stopforcedabortions.com](http://stopforcedabortions.com)
4. Carol Everett with Jack Shaw, *Blood Money* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Books, 1992). See also Pamela Zekman and Pamela Warwick, "The Abortion Profiteers," *Chicago Sun Times* special reprint, Dec. 3, 1978 (originally published Nov. 12, 1978), p. 2-3, 33.



**Prayer:** Dear Father God, please have mercy on women who are subjected to pressure and coercion to abort. Help them to feel your loving arms around them and send your Holy Spirit to give them strength and perseverance. Help them to find the support and resources they need to escape from those who would try to force them to take the life of their child. Help our communities to pass laws that would prevent abortion facilities from cooperating with the coercion. We also pray for conversion of those who do pressure women to abort. Open their eyes to your love and truth, so that they, too, may know your forgiveness and healing love.



**Action:** If a friend confides in you about a past abortion, never assume it was her free choice. Do not judge, but ask what kind of pressures led her to that decision. Listen to her, and continue to be her friend. Let her know that you understand that she must have been in a very difficult position, and that you are not judging her. Let her know that post-abortion healing programs are available to help her find peace. For a national abortion recovery care directory, see:

<http://www.abortionrecovery.org/recovery/CAREdirectory/tabid/234/Default.aspx>