



## Christian Voices for Life

### Weekly Pro-Life

#### Education

#### Prayer

#### Action

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### Getting Abortion Pills Online

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**Education:** Abortion using pills rather than surgery is legal in the U.S., but usually requires going to a doctor or abortion facility, and paying hundreds of dollars. The first drug used, RU-486 or mifepristone, blocks progesterone and kills the baby. The second drug, misoprostol, induces contractions to expel the fetus. RU-486 is only available from certified health care providers, who are to ensure that the patient has access to a surgical abortion or emergency care if

needed. (1) In 2016, the FDA relaxed the recommended regimen for medication abortions, so that the misoprostol may be taken at home, and up to 10 weeks of pregnancy rather than 7. (2) The use of medication abortions increased after this step to 32% in 2017. (3)

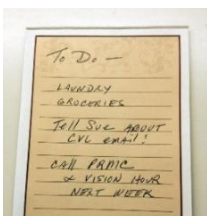
However, misoprostol can also cause an abortion without the RU-486. The procedure is less effective than the combination of both drugs, but has been used for decades in other countries. Misoprostol is also used to treat ulcers, and is sold in some countries, including Mexico, over the counter (as Cytotec), at much lower cost than at an abortion facility. But taking misoprostol on your own without a doctor's supervision is dangerous. There are certain contra-indications, or reasons why the procedure would be more dangerous, such as anemia or a variety of serious health problems. If the woman has an IUD, it must be removed before proceeding.

Online services make the process more accessible and private. Some, but not all sites require the buyer to fill out a questionnaire about their health, as well as how many weeks since their last period. This constitutes a "consultation" with a physician who then prescribes the medication. The prescription is filled and shipped to the customer. Several sites provide advice about the use of the drugs, but all claim that the procedure is safe. None of the sites that I found mentioned the possibility of reversing the process after RU-486 is taken, but before the misoprostol step.

1. <https://www.vox.com/2019/3/12/18260699/misoprostol-mifepristone-medical-abortion>
2. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/06/09/481269789/legal-medical-abortions-are-up-in-texas-but-so-are-diy-pills-from-mexico>
3. <https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records-statistics/data-statistics/itop-statistics>



**Prayer:** Dear Father God, please have mercy on women and girls who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Help them to trust in You and to find the support they need to cope with the pregnancy and resist any coercion they may be facing. Please help everyone in the community to understand the truth that abortion kills a precious child and harms women physically and emotionally. Please also help everyone to understand the serious risks involved with medication abortions, and the possibility of reversing the procedure within a few days of taking the RU-486. Help everyone wounded by abortion to know your mercy and healing.



**Action:** If the subject of abortion comes up, tell your friends about the danger of "Do-It-Yourself" abortions using drugs obtained online. Of course, whatever the method, every abortion kills a precious human child. However, if a woman changes her mind, a medication abortion may be reversed if help is obtained within 72 hours, before taking the second drug.