



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Should PRCs do “Pre-Abortion Screening”?



Education: In 2017, 100% of Abortion Pill Rescue Network clients had had an ultrasound before the abortion began. It was standard procedure to verify the viability and gestational age of the baby, and that it was a uterine pregnancy. But in 2022, only 64% of the clients had had an ultrasound. Among those, some clients had not been allowed to see the ultrasound or even told what the results were. Ten to 20% of known pregnancies result in miscarriage, and many happen early in pregnancy, before the pregnancy is even known. If there is no fetal heartbeat, there is no need for an abortion and the emotional trauma involved in that decision. (1)

In 2020, chemical abortions represented 53% of all abortions in the U.S. (2) Since July of 2022, when Roe v. Wade was overturned, to March of 2023, online sales of abortion pills have increased by 85%! It is impossible to know how many of these pills are purchased to have on hand for the future, rather than used immediately, but certainly since many states have banned abortions, online access to pills will be turned to more often in those states, particularly when it would be necessary to travel hundreds of miles to access an abortion with an in-person doctor visit.

If abortion pill providers are doing the appropriate screening prior to abortion, pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) can offer that service to protect women from possibly serious consequences. This screening would include an ultrasound to verify that the child is alive, within the uterus, and within the age parameters for the procedure. Of course, at a PRC, the client would be shown the ultrasound, and allowed to hear the heartbeat, which are powerful means to convey the humanity of the child. In addition, testing should be done before an abortion for anemia and the Rh factor, and for sexually transmitted infections. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends that all Rh-negative women be given Rho-gam prior to any abortion, and STIs should be treated in advance of the abortion. If a woman is anemic, she will be more likely to require a transfusion with the heavy bleeding that can occur with a medical abortion. PRCs can also inform the woman about the possibility of Abortion Pill Reversal, and under what conditions she should seek help at an emergency room after the abortion.

1. <https://www.heartbeatservices.org/pre-abortion-screening-in-pregnancy-help-clinics>
2. <https://www.gutmacher.org/article/2022/02/medication-abortion-now-accounts-more-half-all-us-abortions>



Prayer: Dear Lord, please guide every woman considering abortion to find truthful information and practical help from the Option Line and the pregnancy help network, to help them make the choice for life. Help parents of teens be aware that abortion pills are available online even if abortion is banned in their state, and present serious risks, especially when used without medical supervision. Help churches to make known their willingness to support any woman in difficult circumstances regarding a pregnancy.



Action: Spread the word that buying abortion pills online and using them without medical supervision is dangerous. Let people know that most PRCs can offer women a free ultrasound, which is important to see if an abortion is even needed. Some centers can also do tests to check for anemia, the Rh factor, or STIs, which are also important to know about before a chemical abortion. Of course, going to a pregnancy center is always a good idea to help a woman to make a truly informed decision.