

# Education on Abortion and Alternatives

## Understand Federal Law

In **January 1973**, the Supreme Court issued its 5-4 ruling in Roe v. Wade and in the later companion case Doe v Bolten. This ruling permitted the federal right to abortion in every state.

Over the years that followed, many states placed limitations or rulings for abortions.

In **June 2022**, the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade with its decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, eliminating the federal right to abortion. The overturning of Roe v. Wade means states are given the right to establish abortion laws within their boundaries. As of January 2024, 12 states have a total abortion ban, 29 states have abortion bans based on gestational duration, 7 states ban abortion at or before 18 weeks' gestation, 22 states ban abortion at some point after 18 weeks.

Christians must continue to pray and to act to change the morally bankrupt laws that leave our unborn children without protection. Pregnancy center ministries are here to help women make wise decisions.

- They transcend political solutions.
- They are rooted in the compassion and love of Jesus Christ.
- They are not about changing laws.
- They address the needs of each woman.
- They share the Gospel and empower people to make positive, life-affirming choices.

When hurting women encounter Jesus Christ in the midst of their crisis, their lives are forever changed.

## Understand Minor's Right to Refuse Abortion

The goal for volunteers and staff of The Center is for parents and children to work together through the challenges presented in unplanned pregnancies whenever possible.

In instances where a minor who is pregnant refuses an abortion that a parent desires, the client and her parent, when possible, will be informed of the right of the pregnant woman to refuse abortion, even if a minor.

Steps will then be taken to address the barriers that the minor client and her family may face with practical solutions.

No minor client may be placed in housing, or harbored in any way without parental consent. In instances in which parental coercion rises to the level of abusive threats or conduct, the proper authorities must be notified.

## Understand State Laws of Texas

### Texas Law Prohibits all Abortions as of August 25, 2022 with Certain Exceptions

The Texas Law prohibits a person from performing, inducing, or attempting an abortion. There are exceptions for situations in which the life or health of the pregnant patient is at risk. The Human Life Protection Act provides multiple avenues of protection against illegal abortions in Texas. Abortion providers can be sentenced to up to 99 years in prison, be fined \$100,000 or more for each violation, and lose their medical licenses. It is reported that all 23 abortion facilities in Texas have ceased performing abortions. There are also penalties of jail time and a fine up to \$10,000 for anyone who prescribes pills for

medication abortions via telehealth and the mail.

HB 1280 does not allow prosecution for the treatment of a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy, and **women cannot be charged for seeking an abortion**.

Governor Abbott also approved \$1.2 billion/year in the Medicaid Program for prenatal, childbirth, and follow-up care for low-income women and their babies. For uninsured pregnant women with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, the state's Medicaid program pays for the mothers' care for six months and babies for 12 months. The Texas Medicaid program pays for more than half the births in Texas.

The Legislature continued funding other various free services for low-income women, appropriating \$352 million over two years toward breast and cervical cancer screening, family planning, pregnancy testing, pelvic exams, sexually transmitted infection services, screening for and treatment of cholesterol, diabetes, and high blood pressure. The HealthyTexasWomen.org website lists thousands of providers.

## Understand Abortion Procedures by Type and Term of Pregnancy

KEEP IN MIND, THE CENTER STANDS FIRM FOR RIGHT TO LIFE AND NEVER ADVOCATES ABORTION.

### **Medical Nonsurgical Abortion (FDA allows up to 49 days after LMP)**

These abortions are a way to end pregnancies with medicines without surgical procedures. Some states require a physician to be present for even these types of abortion.

The gestational age must be determined before getting any of these medicines.

Mifepristone (RU 486) and methotrexate are two of the medicines used

- Mifepristone is given to a woman by mouth, or vaginally.
- Methotrexate is usually given by injection, but may also be given by mouth. Methotrexate can cause serious birth defects if your pregnancy doesn't end.

After receiving mifepristone or methotrexate, you may bleed and pass clots, tissue, and the unborn child within hours to days. The bleeding can last up to three weeks or more. Your doctor will tell you when you need to return to be checked.

If you are still pregnant at that visit, you will be given a second drug (misoprostol), either by mouth or vaginally. Approximately two weeks later, you will return for an important follow-up visit. Your doctor will determine whether your pregnancy has completely ended. If you are still pregnant, a surgical procedure will be necessary.

### **D&C (Dilatation and Curettage) - First 12 Weeks**

This is a surgical procedure with vacuum aspiration. Unless there are unusual problems, this procedure may be done in a doctor's office or a clinic. The doctor first opens (dilates) the cervix and then empties the uterus with suction. After suctioning, the doctor may scrape the walls of the uterus to make sure the unborn child, placenta, and contents of the uterus have been completely removed.

### **D&E (Dilatation and Evacuation) - After 12 Weeks**

The procedure will generally be done in a doctor's office or clinic, but may sometimes be done in a hospital. The doctor will often use ultrasound to determine how far along you are.

To prepare for the procedure, the doctor will open (dilate) the cervix. Most women experience some pain, so the doctor may give you a painkiller — either locally by shots in the area of the cervix or by a general anesthetic — or a sedative (which will leave you conscious). The uterus will be scraped and the unborn child and placenta are removed.

After 16 weeks, the unborn child and placenta are removed, piece-by-piece, using forceps or other instruments.

This procedure will take less than an hour.

### **Induction (Abortion by Medicine Started Labor) - After 16 Weeks**

The procedure will generally require a hospital stay of one or more days.

Medicines will be used to start labor. These medicines can be put in the vagina, injected in the uterus (womb) or given into the vein (intravenously or by IV). The medicines used cause the uterus to contract and labor to begin. Sometimes more than one medicine will be used.

This procedure may take from several hours to several days

Your doctor may use instruments to scrape the uterus and make sure that the unborn child, placenta, and other contents of the uterus have been completely removed.

- A woman who has had previous surgery to the uterus or a woman with placenta previa should discuss this with her doctor.

### **D&X (Dilatation and Extraction) - After 16 Weeks Gestation**

It may be done in the clinic or in the hospital for more advanced pregnancies.

- The doctor will dilate (open) the cervix.
- The doctor will grasp the unborn child's foot with an instrument and deliver the child except for the head. While the head is kept in the birth canal, scissors are used to make a hole in the back of the head, a tube is inserted, and suction is applied. The contents of the unborn child's skull are suctioned out, the bones of the head collapse, and the child is delivered dead.
- If the unborn child is born alive, the attending physician has the legal obligation to take all reasonable steps necessary to maintain the life and health of the child

## Understand Abortion Risks

<b>POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS by TYPE of ABORTION</b>	<b>M E D I C A L</b>	<b>D &amp; C</b>	<b>D &amp; E</b>	<b>I N D U C T I O N</b>	<b>D &amp; X</b>
Cramping of the uterus or pelvic pain.	X	X			
Nausea or vomiting.	X			X	
Diarrhea.	X			X	
Warmth or chills.	X				
Headache.	X				
Dizziness.	X				
Fatigue.	X				
Fever	X				
Infection.		X	X	X	X
Allergic reaction to the medicines.	X				
Complications from anesthesia such as respiratory problems, nausea and vomiting, headaches, or drug reactions.				X	
Damage or rupture of the uterus (womb).				X	
The possibility of a live-born baby. *				X	
Water intoxication.				X	
Hemorrhage (heavy bleeding) possibly requiring treatment with an operation, a blood transfusion, or both.	X	X	X	X	X
A hole in the uterus (uterine perforation) or other damage to the uterus.		X	X		X
Injury to the bowel or the bladder.		X	X		X
A cut or torn cervix (cervical laceration).		X	X		X
A possible hysterectomy as a result of complication or injury during the procedure.		X	X	X	X
Emergency treatment for any of the above problems, including possible need to treat with an operation, medicines, or a blood transfusion.		X	X	X	X
Incomplete removal of the unborn child, placenta, or contents of the uterus, requiring an operation.	X	X	X	X	X
Inability to get pregnant due to infection or complication of an operation.	X	X	X	X	X
Rarely, death.	X	X	X	X	X
Breast Cancer – “While there are studies that have found an increased risk of developing breast cancer after an induced abortion, some studies have found no overall risk.”					
Emotional Trauma – Some women may feel guilty, sad, or empty reporting serious psychological effects of: anger, anxiety, depression, grief, regret, flashbacks, and nightmares.					
<b>DO YOU WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE?</b>					

## Understand God's Perspective on Life

It may be in our heart to save the unborn baby, but the mother's heart must be changed. She is the one who will choose life or death for her baby. If she finds Jesus, God will lead her to make right choices. The Center provides an 'Abortion from God's Perspective' card to help Christians understand what the Bible says on the topics of life and abortion.

### **God created man in His image and He declares sanctity of life.**

- *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Ge 1: 26-27)*
- *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; (Jer 1:5)*

### **God has concern for the safety of the unborn child.**

- *"If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. (Ex 21: 22 - 25)*

### **God knows and cares deeply for each person before conception.**

- *Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him. (Ps 127:3)*
- *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! (Ps 139: 13-17)*

### **God says the taking of human life is not a choice.**

- *"You shall not murder. (Ex 20: 13)*
- *There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. (Pr 6:16–19)*

### **God has a plan to help you and your unborn child.**

- *This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live (Dt 30:19)*
- *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (Jer 29:1 –12)*

### **God promises He will be with you in the midst of your crisis.**

- *You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you. Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me. (PS 86:5–7)*