

What are Crisis Pregnancy Centers?

Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) or Pregnancy Resource Centers are organizations established to counsel women facing an unintended pregnancy against abortion. CPCs may offer useful services to women who are certain they want to continue their pregnancy, especially those planning to parent, but they do not offer unbiased counseling on abortion care. This can include giving women false and/or misleading information about abortion as well as taking actions that delay or impede access to abortion care.

Provide does not advocate referring to an organization that offers patients/clients biased information. No health care provider should pressure a woman into a decision about her pregnancy. There are other organizations including family planning clinics that will give patients unbiased accurate information about all of their options.

Here are some things you should know about Crisis Pregnancy Centers:

- Some CPCs offer free pregnancy tests. CPCs also frequently offer free ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, diapers, and formula as well as other incentives to persuade women to make use of their services.
- CPCs may be staffed by volunteers and employees who lack medical training.
- Many CPCs are not medical clinics, though they are frequently advertised as such. CPCs often use names and branding similar to full-service reproductive health centers, and are often located near to these centers, making it easy for women to go to these fake medical clinics by mistake.
- CPCs do not give women complete and correct information about all of their pregnancy options: continuing the pregnancy with the intent to parent, continuing the pregnancy with the intent to adopt, and abortion.
- CPCs frequently give women misleading and inaccurate information about the medical and emotional effects of abortion, including citing disproven linkages between abortion and depression and abortion and breast cancer.
- CPCs have been known to mislead women about pregnancy test results, telling women that they are not pregnant even if they are. Lying about the results of a pregnancy test could also keep women from getting early prenatal care or to delay the decision to seek an abortion until the woman is too late in pregnancy to obtain an abortion.
- CPCs have been known to try to frighten and emotionally manipulate women with misleading films and pictures to keep them from choosing abortion.
- CPCs often discourage women from using certain methods of birth control that are very safe and effective.

How Do You Avoid a Crisis Pregnancy Center?

- Do your research. CPCs may offer useful services for women who choose to parent but they are often coercive and do not offer unbiased information about abortion.
- Ask friends, other health care providers, counselors, or other people you trust for the name of a trusted health center.
- To find a list of abortion providers, contact your state *Provide* team.

This is not intended to be legal advice. For additional resources, see NARAL Pro-Choice America, <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/what-is-choice/abortion/abortion-crisis-pregnancy-centers.html> and National Abortion Federation, <http://prochoice.org/education-and-advocacy/about-abortion/abortion-facts/>

