

## **Pregnancy Resource Center Policies**

### **1. BASIC SERVICES**

- We offer one-on-one counseling, information, friendship, and practical support to pregnant women in order to encourage the choice for life.
- Services are provided free of charge and regardless of race, creed, nationally, age, marital status, or social-economic status.
- Every client is to be treated with respect and non-judgmental acceptance in accordance with the Commitment of Care policies.
- All client information is strictly confidential except in rare cases when the law requires disclosure for the client's welfare.
- Cases of child abuse shall be reported to appropriate authority.
- Help shall be sought for anyone who indicates the intention to commit suicide.
- If a client expresses a clear intention to harm another person, that person shall be warned.

### **2. ABORTION**

- We offer information on abortion and abortion procedures.
- This does not include disturbing visual depictions of abortion or verbally emotional descriptions.
- Clients are provided with descriptions of educational videos but the clients may freely choose whether to view them.
- Undue pressure is not to be used to force a client to reject abortion. In no way do we condone or assist clients' choice to abort.

### **3. CHASTITY/ABSTINENCE COUNSELING**

- We respect the value of chastity and encourage abstinence outside of marriage.
- We do not judge, preach, or lecture but offer information and encouragement.

### **4. CONTRACEPTION**

- We provide factual information about contraceptive methods. We do not encourage birth control.
- We believe abstinence is the only valid choice for single clients.
- We do not refer married clients for artificial birth control because 1) hormonal methods of birth control can act as an abortifacient, and 2) birth control is generally viewed by the Christian community as immoral. We want to be unified in promoting behaviors which we can all agree are in the best interests of our clients.
- Information about and referrals for natural family planning are made available to married or engaged couples.

## **5. ADOPTION**

- Our purpose is to serve the birth mother in finding a way to provide for her child.
- We see both adoption and parenting as valid choices to provide for the needs of a child, and we do not judge which might be best for any particular client or pressure a client toward either choice. However, we encourage clients facing serious difficulties to consider adoption as a possible plan.
- We provide information about adoption and refer to licensed agencies.
- We do not refer to agencies which place children with same sex couples.
- We encourage clients to provide a stable home with formal arrangements, cautioning against private adoption to unfamiliar families.
- We refer to appropriate local lawyers to help with private adoptions.
- *We do not provide babies for families wanting to adopt.*

## **6. POST-ABORTION COUNSELING**

- We help women suffering from past abortions to find healing and forgiveness.
- Trained staff and volunteers are available to assist in this area.
- Volunteers maintain referral information on other programs in this area.

## **7. PRACTICAL HELP**

- Maternity clothes and baby items are solicited from donors and provided to clients. We may also purchase baby items as needed to meet the demand.
- Items such as cribs, car seats, and strollers are checked for safety before provided to clients; car seats are accompanied by a packet of safety and installation information. Clients must sign a disclaimer upon accepting furniture items and car seats.
- Baby items are provided to clients primarily through our Learn/Earn/Plan incentive program. Clients with emergency needs are considered for gifts on an individual basis.

## **8. PROGRAMS**

Other programs may be added in order to serve our clients in areas related to preventing abortion, encouraging abstinence among single clients, and promoting healthy family life.

## **9. RELIGION**

- Pregnancy Resource Center is an interdenominational Christian organization and not associated with any church. Staff and volunteers pray together and look to God for guidance and power.
- We require counselors to sign a statement of Christian faith and be active in a church.
- Volunteers are encouraged to talk with clients about God and the role He should play in our decision-making, but they respect clients' beliefs and do not force spiritual discussions.
- Bible studies and Christian information classes are offered to clients as part of our incentive program, but these classes do not direct clients to any particular church.

## **10. LOBBYING AND DEMONSTRATIONS**

- We refrain from all political activity, especially public demonstrations against abortion.
- Individual volunteers may participate in such activities as long as they do not associate PRC in any way.
- We do not publicly associate with pro-life groups which are politically active.

## **11. VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF**

- Peer counselors -the backbone of our client service - are primarily volunteers, although appropriately trained staff members may provide services in their absence.
- Volunteers may perform other support services and will receive any needed training.
- Access to confidential client information is granted only to adult volunteers and staff who sign a statement pledging to follow PRC policies.

## **12. SCREENING OF PERSONNEL**

- All paid staff and all volunteers with client interaction are interviewed, undergo a background check, and must provide references.

## **13. CLIENT BEHAVIOR**

- Just as all clients are to be treated with respect, we expect our clients to treat our staff and volunteers with respect. Rudeness, profanity or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Offending clients will be asked to modify their behavior.
- At the discretion of the Client Services Director and the Executive Director, clients may be placed on probationary status as a warning. If the client violates the terms of the probation, he/she may be disqualified from the program.

## **14. CLIENT TRANSPORTATION**

- Volunteers may NOT transport the clients.