



Pregnancy Center Fact Sheet

What are crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs)?

- ✓ Pregnancy centers are privately run organizations that provide free or inexpensive services to pregnant women who need assistance.

What services do CPCs provide?

- ✓ CPCs typically provide free pregnancy tests, prenatal counseling, and mentoring for women facing a crisis pregnancy.
- ✓ Many CPCs provide pregnant women with such items such as maternity clothing, diapers, bottles and formula, car seats, cribs, layettes, and baby clothes.
- ✓ Most CPCs provide referrals for low-cost medical care and to community agencies that can assist with housing, job training, food, and other needs.
- ✓ CPCs certified as medical facilities may provide sonograms and other services.

Do CPCs employ licensed medical providers?

- ✓ Medical CPCs employ licensed physicians, ultrasound technicians, and nurses to provide appropriate medical care to women seeking services.
- ✓ Professionals or volunteers may staff non-medical centers. Generally, such CPCs refer women to local physicians who provide necessary medical care.

Why are CPCs receiving criticism?

- ✓ Because CPCs do not refer for or provide abortions, NARAL Pro-choice Maryland has accused them of being “unfair and misleading.”
- ✓ NARAL investigated 11 Maryland pregnancy centers, using staff and volunteers who posed as women in need of help. Their conclusions assume that any information given to women that suggests that abortion can have negative consequences is “deceitful” and “dangerous.”

Do CPCs coerce or mislead women?

- ✓ Women facing unplanned pregnancies have a right to choose life. CPCs provide accurate information about the full range of options and encourage women to make an informed choice.
- ✓ CPCs do not prevent any woman from having an abortion. Women sometimes do choose abortion after visiting a CPC. Many CPCs offer counseling or post-abortion healing programs to help such women.