



CONSUMER ADVISORY: ANTI-ABORTION CENTERS

If you are pregnant and looking to understand your abortion options, you should consult with a licensed reproductive healthcare provider.

WARNING: Anti-Abortion Centers (AACs) do NOT provide comprehensive reproductive healthcare. AACs are organizations that seek to prevent people from accessing abortion care.

- AACs may appear to be reproductive health care clinics, but do **NOT** provide abortion care or abortion referrals, contraception or other reproductive health care, despite what they may advertise.
- Most AACs are **NOT** licensed medical facilities.
 - AACs are **NOT** typically staffed by licensed doctors or nurses, even though some people who work at AACs may try to look the part, for example, by wearing a white coat.
 - Some AACs offer ultrasounds performed by unlicensed personnel who are not qualified to provide that service, which may lead to inaccurate or misleading results about a pregnancy.
 - AACs staffed by unlicensed personnel are **NOT** required to keep your medical records private.
 - Unlicensed AACs are **NOT** required to follow codes of ethics or standards of care that govern healthcare professions because they are not healthcare providers.
- AACs often provide inaccurate and misleading information about abortion and the medical and mental health effects of abortion.
- AACs often mislead people about how far they are into their pregnancy.
- AACs often try to delay scheduling appointments to push people beyond the point at which they can obtain an abortion.

Do research and ask questions when scheduling an appointment to learn about your abortion options. Be aware of the warning signs.

- Look at the website and online reviews before making an appointment.
- Ask whether the center is licensed and will provide you with an abortion or a referral for abortion before you go to an appointment.
- Watch for these warning signs, including that the center:
 - Is listed as a pregnancy resource center, pregnancy help center, pregnancy care center, or women's resource center on AAC websites such as: helpinyourarea.com/massachusetts.
 - Advertises free pregnancy tests, abortion counseling, pre-abortion screenings, abortion education, but do not provide abortion or help you access abortion care elsewhere.
 - Attempts to delay your appointment.
 - Uses tactics to try to pressure you into continuing a pregnancy, for example, by providing a small plastic fetus or baby clothes.
- For help finding a licensed reproductive healthcare provider, talk to your doctor or check this list: abortioncarenewengland.org/providers.
- When you arrive for your appointment, make sure you are in the right place. Many AACs are located near clinics that provide abortion and use similar sounding names.

The Attorney General's Office is committed to securing the civil rights of all people in Massachusetts or traveling to Massachusetts to access healthcare. **If you have concerns about your experience with an anti-abortion center, file a complaint with our Civil Rights Division at mass.gov/ago/civilrightscomplaint or at 617-963-2917.**

