

CONSUMER ADVISORY

ANTI-ABORTION CENTERS

If you are pregnant and looking to understand your options, you should consult with a licensed reproductive health care provider. This resource provides helpful information to avoid anti-abortion centers (AACs) as you seek abortion care.

WARNING: Anti-abortion centers (also known as crisis pregnancy centers) do NOT provide comprehensive reproductive health care. AACs are organizations that seek to prevent people from accessing abortion care or understanding their options

WHAT ARE ANTI-ABORTION CENTERS?

Anti-abortion centers (AACs) may appear to be reproductive health care clinics, but do not provide medically accurate information about abortion care, or offer abortion care, abortion referrals, contraception, or other reproductive health care, despite what they may advertise. They deploy a range of tactics that mislead patients and direct them away from accessing safe and timely care at licensed abortion providers. Increasingly AACs will also advertise information about "abortion pill reversal" options which are not based on science and do not meet clinical standards.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT AACs

- AACs are not licensed medical facilities.
- AACs are not typically staffed by licensed doctors or nurses, even though some people working at AACs may try to look the part, for example, by wearing a white coat.
- AACs are staffed by unlicensed personnel and are not required to keep your medical records private.
- AACs are not required to follow codes of ethics or standards of care that govern health care professions because they are not health care providers.
- AACs often provide inaccurate and misleading information about abortion care and the medical and mental health effects of such care.

The Attorney General's Office is committed to securing the civil rights of all people in Massachusetts or traveling to the Commonwealth for health care. If you have concerns about your experience with an anti-abortion center, file a complaint with our Reproductive Justice Unit at mass.gov/ago/civilrightscomplaint or 617-963-2917, or 617-963-2917.

BEWARE THE WARNING SIGNS

DECEPTIVE NAMES

- AACs are often listed as a pregnancy resource center, pregnancy help center, pregnancy care center, or women's resource center.
- Their names often mimic that of abortion and reproductive health care providers, utilizing terms like "options" and "choices."

ADVERTISING FREE SERVICES

- AACs often advertise free pregnancy tests, abortion counseling, pre-abortion screenings, abortion education, but do not provide medically accurate information about abortion care or help you access care elsewhere.

INAPPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE

- AACs may attempt to delay your appointment or mislead you about how far you are in your pregnancy.
- They utilize tactics to pressure you into continuing a pregnancy by promising your resources in the future, like diapers or baby clothes, or giving you a small plastic fetus to persuade you.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING AACs

- Look at the website and online reviews before making an appointment to vet the AACs.
- Ask whether the center is licensed before making an appointment.
- Ask whether the center will provide you with an abortion or a referral before your appointment.
- When you arrive for your appointment, double check the location and name. Many AACs are located near clinics that provide abortion care and use similar names.
- Talk to your doctor or check this list when looking for a licensed reproductive health care provider: abortioncarenengland.org/providers



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